

ABSA's BOARD OF DIRECTORS



ABSA, the pressure equipment safety authority, is pleased to announce Mr. Don McFarlane's appointment to the Board

as a Director effective July 1, 2005. Mr. McFarlane is currently the President & General Manager of Cessco Fabrication & Engineering Ltd., a custom heavy steel fabrication and machining facility located in Edmonton. Don has been involved in the pressure equipment industry for over 20 years. He brings a wealth of managerial experience, a knowledge of our business, and he has successfully held numerous Board and Committee positions.

Don will fill the vacancy left by Mr. Gerald Seib who joined the Board in 1999 as the member representing pressure equipment manufacturing on ABSA's five-member board. Gerald has served two 3-year terms which is the maximum allowed by the Bylaws. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Gerald for his significant contribution and valued leadership.

Don will be joining Yves Tremblay, Vice President, Syntech Enerflex; Owen Baker, Chief Inspector, Keyera; Warren Fraleigh, Business Manager and Secretary Treasurer for the Boilermakers Local Lodge 146; and Dr. Brian Larson, Academic and Student Services Vice President for Lakeland College.

Board members are selected through a 3-member nominating committee process that consists of a Board member, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs, and a member of the public. ❖

PRESSURE NEWS IN HARD COPY FORMAT WILL NO LONGER BE PROVIDED

As mentioned in the December 2004 issue of The Pressure News, because the new ABSA "E-News and Information" service is available on our Web site, The Pressure News will no longer be provided in hard copy format after June 30, 2005.

You may sign up to receive email notification when a new newsletter or other information has been posted on our Web site www.absa.ca.

NEW ASME FELLOW

ABSA is pleased to announce that Dr. Ken Lau was recently recognized for his contribution to pressure equipment safety by being elected Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). The Fellow Grade is the highest elected grade of membership within ASME, the attainment of which recognizes exceptional engineering achievement and contribution to the engineering profession.

Ken has over thirty years of working experience in pressure equipment research, manufacturing, operation, design, maintenance, regulation, accident investigation and standards development. Graduated in 1966 in mechanical engineering in Hong Kong, he completed a graduate apprenticeship in 1968 and then studied at Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology with a scholarship from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, U.K. He obtained his M.Sc., and Ph.D., degrees in mechanical engineering from Manchester University through research work in the field of pressure vessel design and stress analysis. Ken taught at Manchester University,

UK, and subsequently, University of Singapore. He also worked as a consultant in the field of pressure equipment. In Alberta, he worked in the pressure equipment fabrication and petrochemical industries before joining the Alberta Boilers Branch of the

Alberta Government.

In 1982, he became the Assistant Chief Inspector - Engineering and in 1990, he was appointed Chief Inspector of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety in the Province of Alberta. He is now the Administrator of pressure equipment safety in the Province

of Alberta and the Chief Inspector of ABSA, the pressure equipment safety authority of Alberta. A member of various professional, jurisdictional and standards-writing organizations, Ken is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta and received the Canadian Standards Association 2004 Award of Merit "in recognition of his outstanding leadership and expertise in the advancement of boiler and pressure vessel standards". ❖



ASME & ASTM MATERIAL SPECIFICATIONS

Nonmandatory Appendix A, "Acceptable ASTM Editions" of ASME Section II, Parts A & B has been replaced in the 2004 Edition by a listing of "Acceptable ASTM Editions". The Foreword to each Section of the ASME Code refers to these listings as "Guidelines for Acceptable ASTM Editions" and explains how they may be used.

Quoting directly from *Acceptable ASTM Editions*, the Code says in part:

"All materials allowed by the various Code Sections and used for construction within the scope of their rules shall be furnished in accordance with the Material Specifications contained within Section II *and this guideline* except where otherwise provided in Code Cases or in the applicable Section of the Code." (italics added) The Foreword to the Code says virtually the same thing.

Therefore, if a Manufacturer has or purchases some material that was

produced and identified to an edition of an ASTM specification that is listed in the column headed "Other Acceptable ASTM Editions" in the Guideline in Section II Part A or B, that material specification would be permissible for Code construction to the degree indicated in the applicable Section.

While the Code prefers that materials be ordered, produced and documented in accordance with the SA and SB Specifications of Section II Parts A and B, it is clearly permissible for Manufacturers to use ASTM A and B Specifications of the editions listed in the Guidelines.

All readers are encouraged to read the Foreword to the Code (it's the same for all Sections) and the opening paragraph of *Acceptable ASTM Editions* of Section II Part A or B to get a fuller understanding of what the Code permits with respect to materials. ❖

CODE BOOK REQUIREMENTS

During audits of ABSA-authorized quality control programs, ABSA auditors sometimes find that the required codes or standards, the Alberta Safety Codes Act and the Regulations under the Act, are not available or are not current.

The required code books are needed to effectively administer the quality control program scope of work as described in the quality system manual. The code books can be in printed form, on compact disc or available on the Internet. However, please note that for vessel manufacturing shops, hard copies of the code book are required even if companies have access to electronic copies.

If clarification is needed on which code books are required, please contact your local ABSA office. ❖

ELECTRONIC LOG BOOKS

A log book is a legal document that is required by Regulation to record such activities as maintenance work, inspections, tests, repairs and other pertinent data. The Power Engineers Regulation requires that a log book be updated and maintained for power plants, heating plants and thermal liquid heating systems. The log book must be a permanent record that cannot be altered.

As technology has advanced, so have the methods of recording information. An electronic log can be acceptable if and only if it can be shown to be a permanent accurate record.

An Electronic Log must be secured in such a way as to

- prevent revisions, additions, or deletions to data which has been previously logged.
- provide a means for other operators, within the organization, to review the log entries as required.
- include a provision for signatures by a PIN or other secure means for the operator and the Chief Engineer to acknowledge his/her reading/writing of the log.

Note: There must be a unique log-in procedure to provide security so that the entry may be traced to a particular engineer. There can be no question that anyone other than the person who "logged on" entered the information.

Here is a list of items that ABSA would require for an Electronic Log.

- 1) Indicate in the Electronic Log the names of the persons fulfilling the roles of Shift Engineer, Assistant Engineers, etc, on the shift.
- 2) All entries should be time/date stamped for each log entry.
- 3) Establish a Policy and Procedure for the electronic log. The policy must clearly state that the Electronic Log is intended to satisfy the log book requirements of the current Power Engineers Regulation and that tampering with a log is an offence under the Act.

The Policy and Procedures and the final Electronic Log is to be reviewed and accepted by ABSA. No changes are to be made to the system without ABSA's acceptance. ❖

REGULATION UPDATE

Current pressure equipment legislation which was scheduled to expire on March 31, 2005 has been extended to March 31, 2007 to allow amendment of the proposed replacement legislation. The legislation which is being extended includes the **Design, Construction and Installation of Boilers and Pressure Vessels Regulations** (AR 227/75), the **Boilers and Pressure Vessels Regulation** (AR 293/94), and the **Boilers and Pressure Vessels Exemption Order** (AR 300/94).

The proposed *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation* and the proposed *Pressure Equipment Exemption Order* will update and consolidate the requirements from this current legislation. A Users Guide is also being developed to clarify the intent or application of the new legislation. We anticipate that the new legislation will be passed later this year. ❖

WHAT IS AN AB-40?

Part of the requirements of any pressure equipment repair is the need for proper documentation. The AB-40 is a key part of proper documentation.

After review of a number of AB-40's (Boiler and Pressure Vessel Repair and Alteration Report), some of the common errors found are:

1. Final Repair box not checked off.
2. Incomplete name and address of organization doing repair (line 1).
3. Incomplete location of vessel (line 1).
4. Incomplete name and address of owner (line 2).
5. Incorrect weld procedure quoted (line 9).
6. Responsibility owner/client not filled out (line 14).
7. Date work completed not filled out (line 17).
8. Certificate of Compliance not signed by owner (line 16).
9. Using outdated AB-40 – latest version is 2005-01.
10. A copy of the completed form not provided to the ABSA Safety Codes Officer at the completion of the Repair or Alteration.

All who are involved in completing this form should reference the guide (AB40A) which is posted with ABSA forms. ❖

Alert and Directive

An **Alert**, (Information Bulletin IB05-003), was issued regarding failure of an accumulator (cylinder) commonly used in drilling blow out prevention. In a recent accident, a pressurized accumulator of the bladder type fell off a pallet that was being moved by a forklift. The accumulator ruptured, and fractured into many pieces, killing an individual who was in the immediate vicinity. An accumulator is a pressurized vessel which must be very carefully handled and must never be dropped or allowed to fall over. A pressurized vessel that fails can become shrapnel that can seriously injure or kill any person nearby!!

A **Directive**, (Information Bulletin IB05-004), was recently issued in regard to the use of split repads which is a design detail not addressed by the design codes and standards adopted by Alberta regulations.

This Directive provides some possible methodologies to apply when split reinforcing pads are used. At this point, it may be concluded that there is an advantage to keeping the pad as one piece.

For a copy of the ALERT or Directive, please visit our Web site, www.absa.ca. ❖

VARIANCE APPLICATION: WHAT, WHY, HOW

What: A variance, as issued under the Safety Codes Act, is an authorized variation from the written provisions detailed under the Act. A variance may include terms and conditions.

Why: The Act and Regulations cannot specifically address all circumstances and situations that arise. As such, Section 38 of the Safety Codes Act allows the Administrator to issue a written variance if it provides equivalent or greater safety performance as that provided for by the Act and Regulations under the Act.

How: A variance application form (AB-140) is available from ABSA. To apply for a variance, you must follow the instructions on the back of the form and submit a completed application form together with the prescribed application fee. Ensure that you identify the requirement that you are looking to vary, provide a description of the variance requested and provide justification that the variance will provide at least equivalent safety performance.

Please Note: All variance applications not fully completed or not accompanied by all supporting documentation cannot be processed until such time as all relevant documentation is received by ABSA.



The 2005 Edition of the CSA B52, Mechanical Refrigeration Code has been published. Also, a practical handbook for implementing CSA B52 is also available.

The ASME 2005 Addenda for the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Codes are to be published on July 1, 2005 and will be mandatory for ASME Code-stamped construction on January 1, 2006.

WELDING EXAMINER CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

Welding Examiner Certificates of Competency were first issued in the fall of 2002 for a 3 year period. Welding Examiners are reminded that their certificates may be due for renewal. Renewal letters will be sent out to individual welding examiners. Welding Examiners are responsible for submitting their application for renewal 3 months before their certificate expires. The Pressure Welders Regulation states that the holder of an expired certificate of competency may be required to pass a written examination to reinstate the expired certificate of competency. ❖

SOPEEC WEB SITE UPGRADE

On May 30, 2005, a "new and improved" SOPEEC Web site was launched.

SOPEEC stands for "Standardization of Power Engineers Examinations Committee" and the SOPEEC Web site provides information on the standardized power engineering examination process in Canada. The site includes information on examination rules and syllabi, contact information for jurisdictional representatives, sample questions, FAQs, etc.

SOPEEC's mandate is to encourage and promote a uniform national standard for certification of power engineers. Having a uniform standard across Canada assists with the mobility of power engineers. ABSA hosts and maintains the SOPEEC Web site.

Please visit the new site at www.sopec.org and check out the new and expanded features including information on the Revised 2nd class syllabus and its implementation. Watch the Web site for information on the implementation of the revised 1st class syllabus tentatively scheduled for release in July 2006.

All comments and questions are appreciated and should be directed to the SOPEEC webmaster at sopec@absa.ca. ❖

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St. Paul
 Please note that our St. Paul office has been closed. All services will be provided through the Edmonton Office.

Internet address
<http://www.absa.ca>

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