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## ABSA'S GRAND OPENING

ABSA, Alberta's pressure equipment safety authority officially unveiled its new headquarters at Edmonton Research Park on September 14, 2006 during an open house event that featured tours, displays and historical exhibits.

The Honourable Rob Renner, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Mr. Allan Scott, President and CEO of Edmonton Economic Development, along with representatives from industry and provincial jurisdictions, were in attendance for the opening ceremonies.

Alberta is a continent-wide leader in pressure equipment safety with an estimated 500,000 pressure vessels in operation thanks in part to a thriving industry that sees more than 30 per cent of the country's petro-chemical plants located in Alberta. With this unique industry environment, pressure equipment safety is of utmost importance to the province. The role of ABSA has a significant impact on public safety as well as the economic well-being of the province.

ABSA was formed in 1995 as a self-funding, not-for-profit regulatory authority (first of its kind in North America), transitioning from it's original identity as the Alberta Government's Boilers Branch. The organization is rooted in over a century of history, to the time when steam engines first began appearing on the prairies. To commemorate safety regulations for the first boilers, a 100-year-old traction engine is on display, courtesy of Reynolds-Alberta Museum. For more information visit [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) ❖



Top Row (left to right): Honourable Rob Renner, Mr. Allan Scott, Mr. Warren Fraleigh.  
Bottom Row (left to right): Dr. Ken Lau, Mr. Gordon Campbell.



## ACCIDENT NOTIFICATION

ABSA's top program priority is investigation of accidents.

Section 59 of the Safety Codes Act states that *"if there is an unsafe condition, accident or fire that involves a thing, process or activity to which this Act applies, the owner or person designated in the regulations shall, if required by the regulations, forthwith report it to an Administrator, ..."*

The Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation, Section 35(1), provides that *"The owner of pressure equipment must forthwith report to the Administrator under Section 59 of the Act any unsafe condition, accident or fire that occurs with respect to that pressure equipment."*

Section 35(2) of the regulation states that the owner must provide a full written report on the cause of the accident.

This process of accident reporting and investigation is very important in order to identify the root cause of the accident. Without this process, we (ABSA and the owners) cannot implement measures to prevent similar accidents in the future.

ABSA has a 24-hour-a-day emergency access number (780-437-9100) to ensure that accidents are reported and investigated in a timely manner. ❖

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## GRADE C WELDER CERTIFICATION

On July 14, 2006, Directive IB06-002 for Grade C Pressure Welder Certification was issued to provide clarification on the requirements and process for the Initial Certificate of Competency, Additional Performance Qualification and Subsequent Certificate of Competency for Grade C Pressure Welders.

Application Form AB-69, Report on Certification and Performance Qualification of a Grade C Pressure Welder, has been revised and two (2) pages have been added. Page A (unchanged) is to be completed by the employer; page B (unchanged) is completed by the ABSA Safety Codes Officer; page C (new) is to be completed by the employer; and page D (new) is to be completed by the employer and the candidate.

On page C, the employer indicates whether the application is for initial certification, additional performance qualification or certificate renewal, provides the additional information requested and, where required, the justification.

Page D provides some information on the limitation of Grade C certification and is signed by both the employer and the candidate indicating that the information provided is correct.

This application form (AB-69) is not applicable for additional performance qualifications that a manufacturer is allowed to issue under the Scope of their ABSA-accepted welder testing program. Directive IB06-002 provides for them to test and certify additional performance qualifications for their welders with limitations governed by the original certification. The additional qualification is to be certified on a Welder Qualification Record (ABSA Form AB-76A).

A Grade C Pressure Welder Certification is a temporary certificate that is renewable only under specific and limited conditions. A welder is expected to attain a Grade B certification to continue welding on pressure equipment. Any additional performance qualification will have the same expiry date as the base certificate of competency.

For information about pressure welder certification, please contact Donna Vandenbrink at (780) 433-0281 Ext. 3327 for Edmonton area, 1-877-433-8910 outside Edmonton or [welders@absa.ca](mailto:welders@absa.ca). ❖

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## PESR USER GUIDE

If you have any suggestions for improving the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation User Guide, please contact ABSA at [litvinchuk@absa.ca](mailto:litvinchuk@absa.ca). ABSA intends to update this User Guide when issues or improvements are identified.

The Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR) is new legislation that came into effect on April 1, 2006. The purpose of the PESR User Guide is to provide a better understanding of the Regulation and to provide guidance on what users should do to comply with the requirements of the Regulation. The latest version of the PESR User Guide is available at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca). ❖

## FRAUDULENT CERTIFICATES

An Alberta company received an application from an individual purporting to hold a Second Class Power Engineers Certificate of Competency. The company checked with ABSA and we found that the certificate presented was an expired 4<sup>th</sup> Class certificate that had been altered to look like a 2<sup>nd</sup> Class certificate. A recommendation has been made to prosecute.

In today's high tech world, it may be easy to make a forgery that appears to be genuine. We strongly recommend that you check the Alberta Certified Power Engineers Online Directory at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) to validate the credentials presented. The directory provides the name, file number, type of certificate and expiry date for valid certificates. If the certification appears to be a forgery, or you have any suspicions, contact ABSA and provide all the information so that we can help in verification.

The directory only shows valid certificates. If an individual has not renewed a certificate, the name is removed from the directory. *An employer is responsible to ensure that, where legislation requires a certificate of competency, only a person with a valid certificate is employed and also to ensure that the person is competent to perform the work.* ❖

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## IN-SERVICE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT INSPECTOR CERTIFICATE RENEWAL

The Certificate of Competency is issued for a period of five (5) years and is required to be renewed for continuous certification. A certification of competency will no longer be valid should it be allowed to expire.

The renewal process includes:

1. submitting a renewal application form,
2. paying a renewal fee as indicated on the form,
3. providing evidence of continuing pressure-equipment-related experience,
4. providing evidence of continuing education such as attendance at industry conferences, seminars or relevant courses for re-certification, and
5. successfully passing a special re-certification examination.

A person who applies for certificate renewal but does not meet the continuing experience or continuing education requirements must write the full Inspector Certification Examination in order to renew their certificate. An inspector with an expired certificate must follow the procedure for reinstatement of the certificate.

Detailed information regarding in-service inspector re-certification requirements is posted on our website at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca).

The objective of the certification program for In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspectors is to provide competency verification for persons engaged in the certification of in-service pressure equipment to acceptable Alberta standards.

This Inspector certification program was introduced in October 2001 to promote the application of consistent and appropriate inspection standards for assessing the integrity of in-service pressure equipment. Information Bulletin IB02-002 was issued to address this certification system and changes by the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Technical Council restricting the certification of Safety Codes Officers in the Boilers discipline to those working for the regulatory authority.

This In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector certification system is a success. The number of certified Inspectors increased from about 65 in 2001 to 125 In-Service Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors and 263 In-Service Pressure Vessel Inspectors for a total of 388 Inspectors. ❖

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## CANADA IS UNITED IN STANDARDIZATION OF POWER ENGINEER EXAMINATIONS

The province of Quebec has become a member of the Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee (SOPEEC). Quebec's application was approved at the 43<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Association of Chief Inspectors in St. John's, Newfoundland. Quebec is going to participate at the 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certification level.

Standardization of Certification allows mobility of power engineers within Canada without further examinations. Standardized Certificates attained by writing standardized examination papers are recognized in all jurisdictions in Canada. SOPEEC establishes the syllabi and develops the examination questions for all classes of power engineering.

SOPEEC is a committee to develop and promote the utilization of a uniform national standard for the qualification, examination and certification of power engineers, providing for mobility of power engineers within Canada. SOPEEC is delegated by, and responsible to, the Canadian Association of Chief Inspectors. ❖

## REVISED FIRST CLASS POWER ENGINEER EXAMINATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

Effective September 1, 2006, qualified candidates may apply to write any of the Revised First Class examination papers.

Until February 28, 2007, a First Class candidate has the option of starting examination under either the old syllabus or the revised syllabus. Starting March 1, 2007, all applicants who have not successfully completed at least one examination paper under the old syllabus will only be able to write their examinations under the revised syllabus.

At any time, an applicant can switch from the Old First Class to the Revised First Class Examination. However, the applicant will lose the examination papers that he or she has successfully passed and would be required to pass all the examinations in the Revised First Class syllabus. Since the Revised First Class syllabus has a broader and more practical knowledge base such as safety, loss and environmental program management, inspection, maintenance and repair practices and business and workforce management which equip the first class power engineer with the necessary knowledge to make better decisions in dealing with their work responsibilities, a number of examination candidates have decided to switch.

For writing the Revised First Class Part B paper 1 examination, in addition to the 2004 ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Academic Extract, a candidate will require ASME / ANSI B31.1 Power Piping Code, B31.3 Process Piping Code, ASME Section VIII Div. 1 Part UW and Section IX. These additional code materials will be provided in ABSA Edmonton Examination Centre until the information is included in the ASME Academic Extract. For the other examination centres, the candidates will be required to bring their own copy of the codes.

If you have any comments, concerns, or questions please feel free to contact Education and Certification by phone at (780) 433-0281 ext.3318 or yeung@absa.ca. ❖

## DECEMBER 31, 2009 IS THE DEADLINE FOR WRITING OLD SECOND CLASS POWER ENGINEERING EXAMINATIONS

The Revised Second Class Power Engineering Examination Syllabus was implemented on January 1, 2005. To assist the implementation of the Revised Second Class syllabus, both the Old and Revised Second Class examinations are concurrently available for 5 years. This will give examination candidates, who have qualified to continue under the Old Second Class syllabus, ample time to finish their examinations and earn their certificate. By **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.

An applicant can switch from the Old Second Class to the Revised Second Class Examination at any time. However, the applicant will lose the examination papers that she or he has successfully passed and would be required to pass all the examinations in the Revised Second Class syllabus. Since the Revised Second Class syllabus has a broader and more practical knowledge base, which equips the second class power engineer with the necessary knowledge to make better decisions in dealing with their work responsibilities, a number of examination candidates have switched to the Revised Second Class. ❖

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