ABSA
the pressure equipment safety authority

THE PRESSURE NEWS

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We at ABSA would like to take this opportunity to wish our friends all the best of the season as you celebrate the holidays with friends and family.

Our wish is that your new year will be filled with happiness, hope, health and prosperity.

Have a happy and safe holiday. ❖

Please visit www.absa.ca for the 2008 Training and Examination schedules.

NEW FEE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008

In August 2007, ABSA sent notice letters to pressure equipment safety stakeholders in the Province of Alberta to inform them that a proposal had been forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing requesting an adjustment to the fee schedule for services provided by ABSA. We also posted information at our web site to provide the rationale and background for the proposed changes and requested feedback.

At the end of October, the Honourable Ray Danyluk, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, approved an increase in ABSA's fees effective January 1st, 2008. The Minister's approval followed an extensive stakeholder consultation in which, based on the feedback received, the overwhelming majority of stakeholders did not see the proposed fee schedule as a significant issue.

The fee increase affects fees for design survey, quality program reviews, shop inspections, initial and installation inspections, special inspections, in-service inspections, annual registration of boilers and pressure vessels, power engineers, pressure welders, and welding examiners. Hourly charges and examination and testing fees are also affected.

ABSA is a self-sustaining not-for-profit organization. We recover our costs through revenues generated by fees charged to customers and we place a high importance on ensuring value for cost. This general fee increase is necessary to ensure the operational effectiveness of ABSA as it administers pressure equipment safety programs in Alberta.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders for participating in the consultation and giving us your feedback. We are committed to giving you our best effort with regard to the effective delivery of pressure equipment safety programs in Alberta.

Please refer to the new **Fee Schedule** that is effective January 1, 2008 at www.absa.ca for details. ❖

Accessing Your Information Online

ABSA has developed an internet website that, when implemented, will allow Power Engineers and In-Service Inspectors access to their information that is securely stored with ABSA. This service is expected to be available early next year.

You will be able to see your personal information, exams taken, results achieved, scheduled examination dates, certificates held and certificate expiry date. You will be able to submit changes to your home address, home and work telephone numbers and email address. Changes to your name or date of birth will still need additional verification, with copies of appropriate certification provided to the ABSA office.

To obtain your internet access to the website, you will need to provide a written request with your picture ID verified by ABSA staff. This can be done when you write an examination or at the reception desk in an ABSA office. Once your application has been processed, an access ID and start-up PIN will be sent to your email address. When you first access the site, you will be required to change your PIN and select from a set of security pictures. Your ID, PIN and security picture choice will be required every time you sign on to the information pages. It is your responsibility to keep this information confidential.

More information on this new service will be available at www.absa.ca.

Some future developments being planned will allow payment for examination applications, scheduling of examinations, and the ability to renew your certificate online using a credit card. Watch ABSA's web site for future e-business changes! ❖

Dry Cleaner Boilers

Under the Safety Codes Act and Section 37 of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (AR 49/2006), owners are responsible to ensure the safe operation of their pressure equipment. Additionally, the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003) requires that a high pressure steam boiler must be operated by a competent person holding at least a Certificate of Competency as a Special Boiler Operator.

Boilers in dry cleaning establishments are required to have an annual internal inspection by an ABSA Safety Codes Officer. As part of this inspection, the owner must hydrostatically test the boiler at 150% of the boiler's maximum allowable working pressure (MAWP shown on the nameplate).

The owner is responsible to correct any deficiencies disclosed by the inspection prior to returning the boiler to service. All repairs or alterations require the approval of ABSA. Any repair or alteration must be done by a contractor with an ABSA-accepted Quality Management System.

Further information can be obtained from the ABSA web site – www.absa.ca. ❖

Welder Base Material Qualification

A change in P-Number on a welder's Performance Qualification card or QW-484A form (ABSA AB-76A form) is an essential variable in accordance with Paragraph QW-403.18 of ASME Section IX for the weld processes listed in Para. QW-352 to QW-357. Therefore, a change in P-Number would require requalification of the welder.

However, Para. QW-423 provides for the substitution of base metals that may be used for welder qualification and allows a greater range of P-Number or S-Number materials that a welder is qualified to weld. For example a welder could qualify using a P-No. 1 material and be qualified to weld P-No. 1 thru P-No. 11, P-No. 34, and P-No.41 thru P-No. 49 materials.

It must be emphasized there are certain limitations associated with the provisions of Para. QW-423 and these include:

1. The Alberta QMS Certificate Holder must have qualified Welding Procedures registered with ABSA to cover the specific base metals within the range of P-Numbers and S-Numbers indicated on the QW-484A or AB-76A form and PQ card, and
2. All other welder essential variables must be within the ranges specified.

Some ABSA Certified Welding Examiners issuing PQ cards may have taken the advantage of the provisions of QW-423 of ASME Section IX to extend the qualification of the welder to allow a greater range of base metal P-Numbers. In those cases, the manufacturers, repair organizations and all concerned parties must also be aware of the limitations associated with all the provisions and limitations of the Code. ❖

LOW TEMPERATURE OPERATION

Winter is upon us and we will again be facing hazards of low environmental temperature. With the winter condition in our province, there is always the potential for severe damage to pressure-retaining components from the freezing of water or other fluids. Plant owners are caution that pressure equipment, including valves and other fittings, subject to freezing of contained fluid could result in the equipment's being unfit for pressure service. Please review the public alert IB04-003 (http://www.absa.ca/IBIndex/ib04-003.pdf) which is as pertinent today as when it was released in 2004. ❖

UNSUPERVISED POWER PLANT

It was reported to ABSA that a power plant at an Alberta refinery was in operation for a shift while not under the continuous supervision of a properly certified shift engineer. In this case, the shift engineer was required to hold a Second Class Power Engineer's Certificate of Competency. The shift engineer scheduled to work the night shift called in sick and supervisory staff were unsuccessful in locating an appropriate replacement for the night shift engineer. The day shift engineer was asked to remain on the job four hours past the end of his normal twelve hour shift, while attempts were made to find an appropriate replacement. The day shift engineer was sent home after working sixteen hours, the maximum permitted by company policy. As a result, the power plant was left in operation while not under supervision of a shift engineer holding an appropriate Certificate of Competency. This action is in contravention of the Safety Codes Act and Power Engineers Regulation. In accordance with the Power Engineers Regulation:

2(1) A power plant may not be operated unless it is
- *(a) under the continuous supervision of the shift engineer who holds a certificate of competency that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Schedule for such power plant, and*
- *(b) Under the overall supervision of a chief power engineer who holds a certificate of competency that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Schedule for such a power plant and who is not a shift engineer for that power plant.*

After a review of this incident with representatives from the refinery, the owner was ordered to review and revise their organizational structure to support compliance with the Safety Codes Act and Power Engineers Regulation. In addition, the Chief Steam Engineer and the Shift Engineer were instructed to challenge a special examination. ABSA also recommended that, in the interests of public safety, Alberta Municipal Affairs and Housing should consider prosecution. The refinery has responded positively to instructions that were issued by ABSA in relation to the incident. ❖

DESIGN SURVEY WORKLOAD STATUS

The Design Survey Department has for many years succeeded in providing a service and reasonable turnaround time acceptable to the industry. Our goal has been and still is to conduct the initial design review within 15 working days.

Over the past few years there has been rapid growth in Alberta. With this growth has come a tremendous amount of staff mobility within the pressure equipment industry, which has meant that many of the designers and submitters are less familiar with the codes and with ABSA's procedures.

There are a large number of major plants being built in Alberta, and many plant owners and constructors have found it necessary to purchase major pieces of equipment offshore. This has also resulted in manufacturers not being fully conversant with making submissions to ABSA. This has meant that the Design Surveyor has needed to spend more time working with the submitter in getting complete designs or design changes to meet Code and to advise designers on how to submit complete applications.

A heavy workload in the Design Survey Department has been the outcome of this growth. To add to this, within a very short period of time, three design survey engineers resigned to pursue other opportunities. However, our commitment to providing the best possible service has not changed. Measures have taken place to improve our staffing situation and three new design survey engineers have been hired this November.

These new staff members will have training in all areas of review for vessel, fitting and piping designs. During this period of training for our new staff, our Inspections Group has stepped up to help out on a part-time basis. While our response time currently exceeds 20 days, we are looking forward to having the Design Survey Department at full speed within the next few months and plan to be back on the targeted 15 working day turnaround time as soon as possible. We are committed to taking the necessary steps to achieve this goal so we may provide the best possible service to ensure the safety of all Albertans. ❖

MANUFACTURERS OF ASME SECTION VIII, DIVISION 2 VESSELS

An Information Bulletin, IB07-010, has been released specifically for the attention of manufacturers constructing pressure vessels to the ASME Section VIII Division 2. Please review the information therein and discuss with your respective ABSA shop inspector to ensure that your quality manual is appropriately revised to incorporate the necessary changes with the issuance of the new 2007 edition of the ASME Code. ❖

NEW API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE PUBLISHED

In June of this year, API published RP 753, *Management of Hazards Associated with Location of Process Plant Portable Buildings*, First Edition. For those familiar with the BP Texas City Refinery incident, this document will be of particular interest. ❖

2007 ASME SECTION VIII, DIVISION 2 SEMINAR

The ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section VIII, Division 2, has been completely rewritten for the 2007 edition. ABSA is conducting two 1-day public seminars on the new Code and on provisions of the Variance for use of this Code in Alberta.

The seminar will be of interest to design engineers, fabricators of Division 2 pressure vessels, EPC companies and facility owners who may be considering the addition of Division 2 pressure vessels to their plant.

The dates of the seminar are:	January 11, 2008	ABSA, 9410 - 20 Avenue, Edmonton
	January 14, 2008	Executive Royal Inn, 2828-23 Street NE, Calgary

Please submit your application form, available at www.absa.ca, to ABSA's Education and Certification Department. Registration will be on a first come first serve basis. The maximum number of registrations will be 30 people per seminar. ❖

12TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE EQUIPMENT INTEGRITY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 5-7, 2008 AT BANFF, ALBERTA

The goal of the conference is to promote technical improvements toward excellence in design, safe operation, and inspection of pressure vessels, piping, and equipment. Please visit IPEIA's web site for more information regarding the conference: http://www.ipeia.com.

ABSA has 2 seminars scheduled in Banff on February 3 & 4, 2008, immediately prior to the International Pressure Equipment Integrity Association (IPEIA) Conference. One is a Pressure Piping Seminar and the other is the Pressure Equipment Safety Legislation (PESL) Seminar. Details on these seminars and application information are available at the IPEIA website as well as at www.absa.ca. ❖

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