

**VARIANCE**

**No. VA15-010  
(IB15-010)**

*Subject* Variance to Subsection 14.1 of the *Pressure Welders Regulation (AR 169/2002, with 2014 Amendments)* regarding qualifications to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination.

*Date of Issue* September 4, 2015

*This Variance applies to* **Province-wide Variance**

*Reason for variance* Subsection 14.1(2)(b) lists the following journeymen to be eligible to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination:

*(b) a journeyman boilermaker, a journeyman steamfitter-pipefitter, a journeyman structural steel and plate fitter or a journeyman welder who has a journeyman trade certificate issued under the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Act.*

Welder apprentices are eligible to take the Pressure Tack Welder examination in accordance with Subsection 14.1(2)(a). Apprentices in the boilermaker, steamfitter-pipefitter or structural steel and plate fitter trades are all expected to learn and develop welding skills throughout their apprenticeship. Feedback from industry stakeholders has expressed concern that prohibiting apprentices of the above trades from taking the Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination hinders their ability to learn such skills through the performance of production work. The limited utilization of apprentices for production work would in turn reduce their employment opportunities. This variance is intended to remove such barriers and to promote the development of welding skills for apprentices in the named trades.

*Details of variance* Subsection 14.1(2)(b) is hereby varied to allow apprentices in the boilermaker, steamfitter-pipefitter or structural steel and plate fitter trades to be eligible to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination on condition that:

The candidate will provide a letter of certification by his or her employer that he/she has completed at least 40 hours of practical training in welding processes to be used in the skills test, and this 40 hours shall not include classroom lecture time.

All other requirements of the Pressure Welders Regulation apply.

*Variance is specific and non-precedent setting*

This Variance is specific and sets no precedent.

*Authority under which the Variance is being issued*

Section 38(1) of the Safety Codes Act, Chapter S-1

*Advisement of Offence*

Contravention of a condition of this Variance is an offence under the Safety Codes Act.

*Approval of Administrator*

<original signed by>

Mike Poehlmann, P.L.(Eng)  
Chief Inspector and Administrator  
Pressure Equipment  
Province of Alberta

*Accredited organization employing the Administrator*

ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority  
9410 – 20 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T6N 0A4

Phone: (780) 437-9100  
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*Submission of a copy of Variance to the Safety Codes Council*

A copy of this Variance will be submitted to:

Safety Codes Council  
1000, 10665 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S9

*Explanation of variance*

A Variance is written permission issued to build, install, process or otherwise act in a manner not consistent with the specific requirements of an applicable code, standard or regulation but which provides, in the opinion of the issuing Administrator, an equivalent level of safety to persons and property.