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Servicing of Pressure Relief Valves on Propane Storage Tanks

This information bulletin is a notification that Alberta Municipal Affairs, Safety Services, has issued a [Safety Tips Propane Tanks bulletin](#) *Servicing Intervals for Pressure Relief Valves On Tanks 2500 USWG and Less* (see a full copy at the end of this **Information Bulletin**). Propane storage tanks with a volume of 2500 USWG or less are exempt from the requirement for a Certificate of Inspection Permit under the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation, but must meet all other requirements of the legislation.

The bulletin applies to servicing of pressure relief valves (PRVs) installed on these propane vessels and identifies that the maximum servicing interval is twenty five (25) years with periodic visual inspection at a maximum of five (5) years as established through ABSA document AB-506, *Inspection and Servicing Requirements for In-Service Pressure Equipment*.

The bulletin establishes that each owner should develop a compliance plan by December 31, 2015 to come into compliance by May 31, 2024. The compliance plan should establish the priority for PRV servicing or replacement. PRVs should be serviced or replaced in accordance with the plan. Compliance audits will be carried out by Gas Safety and ABSA.

Propane storage tanks exceeding a volume of 2500 USWG require a Certificate of Inspection Permit issued by ABSA and must meet the inspection and servicing requirements established by ABSA document AB-506. Compliance audits will be carried out by ABSA.

The following sections of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation are pertinent to the safe operation of PRVs:

*37 The owner of pressure equipment must ensure that
(c) the pressure equipment and pressure relief devices, pressure gauges
and regulating or controlling devices on them are maintained in good
working order and are operated safely,*

*38(2) A pressure relief device must be set to open before the pressure in the
pressure equipment exceeds the maximum allowable working pressure of the
pressure equipment.*

38(3) An owner of pressure equipment must ensure that the overpressure protection system is designed and maintained so that the maximum pressure in the pressure equipment does not exceed the prescribed limit of overpressure allowed in the applicable code declared in force by this Regulation.

39(3) A pressure relief device must be serviced at an interval acceptable to the Administrator.

39(4) A pressure relief valve may be serviced, repaired, set or sealed only by a person who holds a certificate of authorization permit described in section 11 and who complies with section 13.

<original signed by>

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Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority

Safety|Tips

Propane Tanks

Servicing Intervals for Pressure Relief Valves On Tanks 2500 USWG and Less

This bulletin applies to the servicing of pressure relief valves (PRVs) installed on pressure vessels designed and fabricated in accordance with CSA B51 code, and installed and in service within the scope of the CSA B149.2, Propane storage and handling code.

These pressure vessels are subject to the Safety Codes Act, but do not require a certificate of inspection permit in accordance with Section 30(2)(e) of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. All other requirements of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR) apply. Section 37(c) of the PESR establishes the requirement for the owner to maintain the PRVs in good working order.

ABSA document AB-506, Inspection & Servicing Requirements for In-Service Pressure Equipment, requires that servicing of pressure relief valves for propane storage shall be in accordance with CSA B51 Clause 12. The current edition of the CSA B51-14, Boiler, pressure vessel and pressure piping code has established the maximum servicing interval for PRVs installed on these pressure vessels at twenty five (25) years (for details refer to CSA B51-14 Clause 12 and Table 5), with periodic visual inspection at a maximum interval of five (5) years.

The requirements of CSA B51-14 became mandatory in May 2014 when it was adopted under the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. It is the Owner's responsibility to ensure their pressure equipment is operated safely and is in compliance with the Safety Codes Act, the regulations, and the adopted codes and standards. It is understood that there are many existing propane storage vessels less than 2500 USWG that are not in compliance with the new requirement for PRV servicing, and that it is not practical to achieve full compliance on these existing installations within a short period of time. Owners of this type of pressure equipment have expressed, through the Canadian Propane Association, a desire to achieve compliance over a reasonable time period, and have asked for guidance in this regard.

Owners of vessels, not greater than 2500 USWG, are advised to develop and document an implementation compliance plan for the servicing of PRVs on these vessels. The compliance plan should be made on the basis of a risk assessment process to establish the priority for PRV servicing or replacement. PRVs should be serviced or replaced in accordance with the plan. They must be serviced or replaced sooner if there is evidence of malfunction or damage.

Compliance plans should be developed prior to December 31, 2015. It is expected that all PRVs on these vessels will be in compliance with the servicing requirements by May 31, 2024.

Compliance monitoring will be carried out by Gas Safety and ABSA. Safety Codes Officers in the gas discipline will monitor compliance at the time of installation inspections. ABSA Safety Codes Officers in pressure equipment discipline will monitor compliance during audits of owner's integrity management systems.

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For more information, please call Municipal Affairs, Safety Services at 1-866-421-6929 or visit www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca or visit the Alberta Boilers Safety Association at www.absa.ca.
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