

Information Bulletin No. IB14-011

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ALERT

Falsified Welder Credentials

ABSA was recently made aware of the existence of some falsified welder performance qualification (PQ) cards. This issue was identified when a prospective employer of the Grade B Pressure welder named on the PQ cards contacted the authorized testing organization named on the PQ cards. The authorized testing organization observed that the PQ cards bore the name and credentials of a welding examiner that did not work for the testing organization. The welding examiner named on the PQ cards was unaware of the existence of these PQ cards.

Upon investigation, the welder admitted to an ABSA Safety Codes Officer that the falsified PQ cards were used to obtain employment and perform welding.

Performing pressure welding without a valid PQ card is prohibited under Section 2(1) of the Pressure Welders Regulation. ABSA is investigating to determine the exact scope of welding performed by the welder to determine the appropriate course of action to ensure safety has not been compromised.

The B Pressure Welder's Certificate of Competency has been suspended pending completion of the investigation.

This serves as a reminder that employers of welders should exercise due diligence when validating PQ cards for new employees. The pressure equipment industry relies heavily on honest safety conscious people acting with integrity in the interest of protecting public safety. The Alberta pressure equipment industry has a well known reputation and track record of excellence in pressure equipment safety.

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Mike Poehlmann, P.L. (Eng.)
Administrator, Province of Alberta Pressure Equipment Safety
Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority