

**Information Bulletin No. IB13-012**

**October 15, 2013**

## **ALERT**

**Pressure Vessels Manufactured by Wadsworth Industries  
and Distributed by Mountain Equipment of New Mexico Inc.  
Wichita Falls, Texas, USA**

We have been given the information that as many as 354 pressure vessels not in compliance with the ASME Code, manufactured by Wadsworth Industries, could be in operation in North America. Deficiencies in these vessels include significant differences from design requirements in head and shell thicknesses, inadequate non-destructive examinations and others which would greatly affect the maximum allowable working pressure of these vessels. The safe working pressure of these vessels may be substantially less than listed on the manufacturer's data report and the nameplate of these vessels. These vessels went to Mountain Equipment in Deming, New Mexico and they could have been sold or leased to users anywhere. It is known that some could have been resold after being used, as well.

The vessels in question are typically 20 inch (508 mm) OD but some are 24 inch (610 mm) OD. The length of the shell is typically 8 ft (2,438 mm), and the heads are hemispherical. We are given the understanding that these vessels are used at natural gas wells to remove residual sand from the gas flow and they could be known by different names, including sand traps, sand cans, sand separators, de-sanders, desanders, etc. These units could have been installed on site or could be transported from well site to well site. While typically they would be operating in vertical position, often they are transported horizontally as indicated in the photograph below.

Record in ABSA indicates that Mountain Equipment of New Mexico Inc. applied for design registration in Alberta last year. The design registration application for a pressure vessel 20 inch (508 mm) OD x 8 ft (2,438 mm) inch long with a maximum allowable working pressure of 5,800 psi (40,000 kPa) was rejected and some of the reasons for the design registration being refused are the same as those deficiencies found in the pressure vessels noted above.

It is not believed that any of the pressure vessels have been put in service in Alberta. Should any of these pressure vessels be found in Alberta, they must not be put into pressure service and ABSA should be notified immediately.

*<original signed by>*

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Administrator, Province of Alberta Pressure Equipment Safety  
Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority



Fig. 1