

Information Bulletin No. IB12-005

June 14, 2012

## **DIRECTIVE**

### **Use of SA-105 Material Specification for Small Tubesheet Application**

#### **Background**

SA-105 blind flanges have been used for tubesheets of small heat exchangers for past number of years without any known adverse effect on the structural integrity of the tubesheets. It is also noted that in some cases, these flanges are made of SA-105/SA350LF2 dual specifications, and SA-350 LF2 material has no restriction for use as tube sheet. This Information Bulletin is reaffirming a long standing practice allowing the use of SA-105 material for this purpose.

#### **Provisions**

Unless a compelling reason is found indicating otherwise (see Comments below), tubesheets made of SA-105 material can be accepted for small diameter heat exchanger tubesheets (maximum ASME B16.5 24" size) for use in Alberta.

#### **Comments**

An ASME code interpretation (VIII-1-89-178) states that SA-105 should not be used as tubesheet material. In general, code interpretations should be observed and adhered to. Some pressure equipment owners may insist on compliance to all code interpretations and put special provisions on the specification/ordering of the equipment. In this case, this Directive is for use in the province of Alberta only, and does not remove any contractual agreements between owners and manufacturers. Also, some other pressure equipment jurisdictions may choose to adhere to all code interpretations. Therefore, for equipment intended for use out of province, manufacturers should also ascertain the acceptability of this Directive, or use other material specifications (e.g. SA-266) for tubesheet applications.

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