

Information Bulletin No. IB12-009 **WITHDRAWN 2021-11-10**  
**Replaced by IB21-013**

July 10, 2012

**Owner's Designation of Chief Power Engineer  
under the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003)**

**(I) Background Information**

Power Engineers Regulation Sections 1(g) and 2(1)(b) provide that:

*1(g) "chief power engineer" means a person who*

- (i) holds a certificate of competency of a classification that meets or exceeds the requirements under this Regulation respecting supervision for that plant type and capacity, and*
- (ii) has been designated by the owner of a power plant to fulfill the responsibilities of the chief power engineer;*

*2(1) A power plant may not be operated unless it is*

- (b) under the overall supervision of a chief power engineer who holds a certificate of competency that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Schedule for such a power plant and who is not a shift engineer for that power plant.*

**(II) Discussion**

The Power Engineers Regulation addresses a traditional working arrangement in which the chief power engineer is a full time employee expected to be at work Monday to Friday excluding vacation and statutory holidays. Some power plants currently operate with the chief power engineer on rotational duty assignments. For example, seven days on and seven days off. The Power Engineers Regulation does not address this case. This Information Bulletin provides direction to the owner and the chief power engineer regarding policy requirements for designating the person responsible to fulfill the responsibilities of chief power engineer.

A power plant with a capacity exceeding 250 kW must be under the 'overall supervision' of a chief power engineer. The chief power engineer must hold the required certificate of competency and must be designated by the owner to fulfill the responsibilities of the chief power engineer. The chief power engineer of a power plant that requires overall and continuous supervision cannot be a shift engineer of that power plant. If the chief power engineer is to be absent from the power plant for a period exceeding 96 hours, the owner must designate another competent person to carry out the responsibilities of chief power engineer in an acting position.

**(III) Interpretation**

The owner must have a policy that clearly defines the process for designating a person to be the chief power engineer for different time periods. This policy shall ensure that the responsibilities of the chief power engineer as established by the Power Engineers Regulation are fulfilled.

The owner is responsible to ensure the person filling the role of chief power engineer is aware of the responsibilities. The policy must address the following:

1. The process of designating the acting chief power engineer for each period of time, and how the appointed chief power engineer acknowledges the designation. The owner must ensure that the designated person is competent and holds a Certification of Competency that meets or exceeds the certification required under the Power Engineers Regulation.
2. The period of time during which the designation is in effect. There shall be no gap in the chief power engineer's coverage. The policy must address overlap of coverage, and define the turnover process between the chief power engineer and the acting chief power engineer.
3. The manner in which the designation of the acting chief power engineer for the effective period is communicated to the shift engineers, assistant shift engineers and assistant engineers.

*<original signed by>*

K. T. Lau, Ph.D., P.Eng.  
Administrator, Province of Alberta Pressure Equipment Safety  
Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority