

Information Bulletin No. IB09-002

January 8, 2009

To Pressure Equipment Owners and Operators

ALERT

FREEZING HAZARD

We are repeating our message that appeared in the December 2008 Pressure News (<http://www.absa.ca/newsletter/2008-v13-iss4.pdf>). Particularly with the winter condition in our province, there is always the potential for severe damage to pressure equipment.

The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) of the United States has just released a video safety message emphasizing effective winterization programs to prevent process accidents. The safety message can be viewed on the CSB's safety message channel, www.youtube.com/safetymessages, and can be also read on safetymessages.blogspot.com.

Again, we want to emphasize that any pressure equipment that has been affected by the freezing of the contained fluid should be taken out of service immediately. If freezing has been suspected or observed, the pressure equipment or fittings involved **must not** be placed back in pressure service without proper inspection and integrity evaluation. The use of damaged components in pressure service can be highly hazardous and components damaged by freezing can not likely be repaired.

K. T. Lau, Ph.D., P. Eng.
Chief Inspector and Administrator
Pressure equipment Safety
Province of Alberta