

Information Bulletin No. IB18-019

August 31, 2018

**Authority Having Jurisdiction for the
CSA B52 Mechanical refrigeration code**

This information Bulletin replaces IB17-022 which has been withdrawn.

The *Mechanical refrigeration code* (CSA B52) provides requirements for the design, construction, installation, inspection and maintenance of mechanical refrigeration systems. CSA B52 has requirements applicable to the building, electrical and mechanical disciplines under the Safety Codes Act. CSA B52 is referenced in both the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation and the Alberta Building Code. This Information Bulletin provides guidance on the authorities having jurisdiction for the enforcement of certain aspects of CSA B52.

CSA B52 is referenced under Section 6(b) of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. Mechanical refrigeration systems include pressure equipment such as pressure vessels, pressure piping systems, fittings and safety relief devices. ABSA enforces the parts of CSA B52 respecting pressure equipment. This includes design registration, and inspection during construction and installation. ABSA also enforces requirements in the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation for in-service inspection (integrity assessment), servicing, repair and operation of the pressure equipment components.

ABSA form AB-275 General Requirements for Mechanical Refrigeration Systems has been introduced to document compliance verification of refrigeration systems. AB-275 includes a 2 page form that shall be completed to document the construction of refrigeration system compliance with B52 and the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation for systems containing more than 23 kg of refrigerant. AB-275 also includes 7 pages of supplementary information intended to provide additional compliance guidance regarding the requirements set forth in B52. The supplementary information may be used by any person (e.g. designer, contractor, owner, operator, inspector) that has responsibilities for refrigeration systems.

For information about pressure equipment in refrigeration service contact the local ABSA safety codes officer, email generalinq@absa.ca, or call (780) 437-9100.

CSA B52 is also referenced under Part 6 of the Alberta Building Code 2014 (ABC article 6.2.1.4). The enforcement of requirements for machinery rooms stipulated under CSA B52 is therefore part of the scope of the building discipline. Designers looking for approval for their machinery room should contact the building safety codes officer of the respective authority having jurisdiction (e.g. municipalities, accredited corporations etc.) for directions. General questions regarding the Alberta Building Code (including the application of the CSA B52 Mechanical Refrigeration Code, permit requirements, etc.) can also be forwarded to Alberta Municipal Affairs Communication Inquiry Centre via telephone: 1-866-421-6929, or email ma.safety.services.m@gov.ab.ca to discuss such issues with a duty officer in the building discipline.

Other disciplines under the Safety Codes Act may also be involved where applicable, including but not limited to the following examples: For a typical electrical installation, enforcement of requirements under the Canadian Electrical Code is the responsibility of the safety codes officer in the electrical discipline. Plumbing systems within a machinery room or other parts of the building are the responsibility of the safety codes officer in the plumbing discipline. It is important to obtain all necessary approvals from the respective authority having jurisdiction in each discipline.

<Original signed by>

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