

Information Bulletin No. IB01-002

July 16, 2001

EXEMPTION OF PRESSURIZED CARGO TRANSPORT VESSELS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE ALBERTA SAFETY CODES ACT

1.0 Background

The issue of pressurized cargo transport vessel safety has been subject to an extensive review by the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Technical Council in consultation with the Department of Municipal Affairs, Alberta Transportation, Transport Canada, ABSA and industry stakeholders. Because of the introduction of new regulations by Transport Canada in recent years for uniformity of safety in the transportation of hazardous goods across Canada, there are a number of overlaps of program services and requirements from the Federal and Alberta Governments relative to pressurized cargo transport vessels.

As a result of thorough consultation with concerned parties and to promote uniformity of pressurized cargo transport vessel safety in Canada while ensuring that the interests of Alberta industry and the public are being maintained, the Hon. Guy Boutilier, Minister of Municipal Affairs, issued a Ministerial Order on June 19, 2001 exempting pressurized cargo transport vessels (highway tanks) subject to the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992 (Canada) from the requirements of the Alberta Safety Codes Act. This exemption Order is effective June 27, 2001. Accordingly, all Alberta pressure equipment safety programs under the Safety Codes Act, as administered by ABSA, will no longer be applicable to pressurized cargo transport vessels.

2.0 Pressure Equipment Covered by the Ministerial Order

- 2.1 The Ministerial Exemption Order applies to all pressure equipment under the jurisdiction of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1992 (Canada). Included are all pressure vessels for the transportation of dangerous goods, examples of which include highway transport tanks (highway tanks) for anhydrous ammonia, propane, compressed gases, as well as anhydrous ammonia field applicator vessels (nurse tanks).
- 2.2 Throughout the remainder of this Information Bulletin the equipment described in item 2.1) shall be referred to as pressurized cargo transport vessels.

3.0 Design Review

- 3.1 ABSA will no longer be involved in the review and registration of pressurized cargo transport vessel designs.
- 3.2 Transport Canada administers the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act which provides for Transport Canada's authority and responsibility to review pressurized cargo transport vessel designs and, if found acceptable, to issue Transport Canada Registration Numbers (TCRN). Further information on this matter may be obtained from Transport Canada directly [Tel: 613-998-5270; website: www.tc.gc.ca/en/menu.htm].

- 3.3 Current (pending) pressurized cargo transport vessel design submissions in ABSA's possession will be destroyed unless the submitting organizations specifically request to have their design submission returned.
- 3.4 An organization may request that the (pending) design submission be reviewed and registered as a stationary storage vessel. In that case the design, if found acceptable, will be issued a standard CRN with a note in the registered design and the letter of acceptance that the design review and registration is applicable to stationary storage applications only.
- 3.5 Similarly, ABSA Design Survey will no longer be involved in review and acceptance of repair, alteration or modification procedures or changes to registered pressurized cargo transport vessel designs. Organizations proposing repair, alteration or modification procedures or changes to registered pressurized cargo transport vessel designs should contact Transport Canada directly.
- 3.6 Review of welding procedures for pressurized cargo transport vessel manufacturers or repair organizations will continue as before the Ministerial Order.

4.0 New Construction Inspection

- 4.1 In Alberta, for the construction of pressurized cargo transport vessels [as required by Transport Canada and under the CSA B620], ABSA will continue to provide Authorized Inspection Agency (AIA) and Authorized Inspector (AI) services under the ASME and CSA B51 Codes.
- 4.2 The manufacturer must hold a valid Alberta Certificate of Authorization for the manufacturing of pressure vessels.
- 4.3 Transport Canada requires manufacturers of pressurized cargo transport vessels to register with Transport Canada.
- 4.4 All inspections conducted by an AI will be carried out to designs, that have been registered by Transport Canada and bear a TCRN, or to designs that have previously been accepted by ABSA under existing Alberta CRNs. For new construction, ABSA will continue to accept existing Alberta CRNs until such time as Transport Canada notifies otherwise.
- 4.5 An "A" number will not be assigned. Only the ABSA "A" stamp shall be stamped on the ASME Code nameplate and a "Certificate of Inspection" will not be issued.

5.0 In-Service Inspection

- 5.1 ABSA shall not be involved with in-service inspection of pressurized cargo transport vessels and inspection certificates will no longer be issued for these vessels.

6.0 Annual Registration Fee

- 6.1 For pressurized cargo transport vessels that are subject to annual registration, the annual pressure vessel registration fee invoiced April 1, 2001 applies.
- 6.2 No future annual pressure vessel registration fee invoices shall be issued for pressurized cargo transport vessels.

7.0 Repair, Alteration and Modification Inspections

- 7.1 ABSA will provide AIA and AI services for the repair, alteration and modification of pressurized cargo transport vessels, as required by Transport Canada and under CSA B620.
- 7.2 The organization doing the work must hold a valid Alberta Certificate of Authorization for the repair and alteration of pressure vessels.
- 7.3 Transport Canada requires that organizations involved in repair, alteration and modification of pressurized cargo transport vessels register with Transport Canada.
- 7.4 For repairs the AI will review and, if applicable, accept the proposed repair procedure. If the repair procedure affects the original registered design, all inspection conducted by an AI will be carried out to procedures or revised designs that have been accepted by Transport Canada.
- 7.5 For alterations or modifications, all inspection conducted by an AI will be carried out to procedures or revised designs that have been accepted by Transport Canada.
- 7.6 For repairs or alterations, an "A" number will not be assigned. When the pressurized cargo transport vessel does not have an "A" number, a copy of the original manufacturer's data report must be provided to the AI by the owner or repair/alteration organization [for vessels that have an "A" on the nameplate, a copy of the data report should be available from ABSA].
- 7.7 A "Certificate of Inspection" will not be issued.

8.0 Quality Control Program and Certificates of Authorization

- 8.1 Manufacturers and organizations involved in the repair, alteration and modification of pressurized cargo transport vessels of the specific tank specifications as required by Transport Canada and CSA B620, are required to have a quality control program reviewed and implemented to ASME and CSA B51 Code requirements.
- 8.2 For organizations involved in the manufacture, repair, alteration and modification of pressurized cargo transport vessels as noted in Item 8.1, ABSA will continue to review the written quality system and audit system implementation. Certificates of Authorization will continue to be issued for the scopes specified above as applicable.
- 8.3 Certificates of Authorization for inspection and testing of pressurized cargo transport vessels will no longer be issued.
- 8.4 ABSA's AIA quality control program, as accredited by the ASME, as well as existing ABSA Technical Policies and Procedures involving the manufacturing, repair, alteration and modification of pressure vessels apply to reviews and audits carried out under Item 8.2.

9.0 Initial and Installation Inspection

- 9.1 ABSA will not be involved in initial or installation inspection of pressurized cargo transport vessels.
- 9.2 Transport Canada requires that organizations performing assembly of pressurized cargo transport units register with Transport Canada.

10.0 Accident Investigation

10.1 ABSA will not be investigating any accidents/incidents involving pressurized cargo transport vessels.

10.2 Notification of accidents/incidents involving pressurized cargo transport vessels should be directed to:

- i. Transportation of Dangerous Goods
Transport Canada
Tel. 613-998-5270
website: www.tc.gc.ca/en/menu.htm
- ii. Dangerous Goods and Rail Safety Branch
Alberta Transportation
Tel. 1-800-272-9600

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