

Information Bulletin IB98-004**May 4, 1998**

**ASME SECTION VIII DIVISION 1 - PARAGRAPH UCS-67(a)(2)
ASME SECTION VIII DIVISION 2 - PARAGRAPH AM-218.2(a)(2)
EXEMPTION OF IMPACT TESTING OF WELDS FOR
WELDING PROCEDURE QUALIFICATIONS**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Paragraphs UCS-67 and AM-218.2 of ASME Section VIII Divisions 1 and 2 respectively, provide for "Impact tests of Welding Procedures". Paragraphs UCS-67(a)(2) and AM-218.2(a)(2) were revised by the 1997 Addenda of these Code Divisions whereby welds for Welding Procedure Qualifications may only be exempted from impact tests when the welding consumables used are classified by impact tests at a temperature not warmer than -55EF by the applicable SFA specification. Since welding consumable specifications are typically classified by impact tests at -50EF, it would be mandatory, effectively July 1, 1998, to require additional impact tests which fall under the existing exemption. With the alertness of ABSA staff, the implications and the resulting hardship for the pressure equipment industry with the 1997 Code changes were brought to the attention of the ASME Code Committees. The ASME Code Committees responded quickly and the effort results in the proposed ASME Code "Intent Interpretation" as well as proposed Code revisions to rectify the situation.

2.0 CODE INTERPRETATION & CODE REVISIONS

During the ASME Code Week of April 27-May 1, 1998, the following proposed "Intent Interpretation" received approval for issuance:

Question: Is it the intent of Section VIII, Division 1, UCS-67(a)(2) and Division 2, AM-218.2(a)(2), that Welding Procedure Qualifications be exempt from impact testing, when the welds are made with welding consumables that are impact tested at a temperature not warmer than the MDMT by the applicable SFA specification?

Reply: Yes

It was also resolved by the Code Committees that Paragraphs UCS-67(a)(2) and AM-218.2(a)(2) of ASME Section VIII Divisions 1 and 2 be revised to reflect the "Intent Interpretation". It is expected that the proposed Code revisions will be published in the 1999 Addenda for to 1998 ASME Code edition.

3.0 APPLICATION

For the 1995 editions of ASME Section VIII Divisions 1 and 2 (with the 1997 addenda) as well as the new 1998 editions of these Code Divisions to be published and released shortly, the last temperature of "-55EF" in both Paragraphs UCS-67(a)(2) and AM-218.2(a)(2) should be read as "the MDMT". Accordingly, welds for Welding Procedure Qualifications may be exempted from impact tests when these welds are made with welding consumables that are impact tested at temperature not warmer than the MDMT by the applicable SFA specification.