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INTERPRETATION
Certification Requirements for Providing Reduced Supervision
in accordance with the
Power Engineers Regulation (AR85/2003)

This Information Bulletin provides clarification on the certification that is required to provide operational supervision for various plants while they are operated under reduced supervision as permitted respectively under Sections 2.1 and 3.1 of the *Power Engineers Regulation*.

Background

"Reduced supervision" was introduced with the 2013 amendments to the *Power Engineers Regulation*. The default requirement for plant operation supervision is specified in Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the *Power Engineers Regulation.* Reduced supervision is an optional method of compliance specified in Sections 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 of the *Power Engineers Regulation*. The owner may choose to operate the plant with reduced supervision, provided the plant is operated in compliance with both the *Power Engineers Regulation* and the requirements specified in ABSA document AB-528 *Requirements for Reduced Supervision of Power Plants, Thermal Liquid Heating Systems, and Heating Plants*. It is noted that "reduced supervision" is a reduction in the level of power engineer certification, or reduction in the physical presence of power engineers at the plant site. These reductions are offset by additional administrative and engineering controls designed and intended to maintain the same level of safety.

Interpretations

2.1(1) *Despite section 2, a power plant that uses thermal liquid under pressure of a blanketing gas not exceeding 700 kPa must, except as provided in subsection (2), be supervised in accordance with section 3 by a power engineer who holds a certificate of competency that meets or exceeds the authorized scope of practice set out in Table 5 of the Schedule.*

A plant described in **2.1(1)** requires ***general supervision*** of shift operators holding at minimum either a 4th Class Certificate or a FPHO Certificate (5th Class Certification is acceptable up to 1000 kW). A power engineer in charge must direct and supervise the shift operators and must hold at minimum either a 3rd Class Certificate or a FPHO Certificate for plants > 1000 kW. For plants of this type not exceeding 1000 kW, a 4th Class certificate holder may be the power engineer in charge.

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2.1(2) *Despite section 2, a power plant that does not produce steam and that uses thermal liquid under pressure of a blanketing gas not exceeding 700 kPa or uses a water-glycol mixture with a minimum of 40% glycol may operate under a reduced level of supervision only if*
(a)…,
(b) a power engineer who holds a certificate of competency that meets or exceeds the authorized scope of practice set out in Table 1 of the Schedule is assigned the responsibility for supervising the safe operation of the power plant, …

When the owner of a plant described in **2.1(2)** chooses to operate the plant under a reduced level of supervision, the owner may in accordance with AB-528, suspend *general, continuous and overall supervision*. It is explicit in Table 1 of the regulation that the holder of a FPHO certificate may supervise safe operation of this type of plant while it is operating under reduced supervision. This interpretation clarifies that a power engineer who holds a 4th Class or higher certificate of competency may supervise the safe operation of the plant while the requirements for *general, continuous and overall supervision* are suspended.

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