

Information Bulletin IB20-007

April 2, 2020

**INTERPRETATION**  
**Inspection and Servicing Requirements for In-Service Pressure Equipment**

As provided for under Sections 39, 41, 42 and 43 of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation, this Information Bulletin establishes that ABSA document AB-506, Inspection and Servicing Requirements for In-Service Pressure Equipment, Edition 2, Revision 7 –Issued 2015-08-26, **as modified below**, specifies requirements that must be met for pressure relief device servicing and pressure equipment integrity assessment. This Information Bulletin supersedes Information Bulletin IB14-012 Rev. 1, which is hereby withdrawn.

**Temporary Modification to AB-506 - 11.4.2 Reporting Deferrals to ABSA**

Existing requirement: 11.4.2 *Proposed deferrals by owner-users that exceed one year shall be submitted individually to ABSA for prior acceptance.*

In lieu of individual submissions, the owner-user may report inspection deferrals on a plant, area or facility basis. The method of reporting shall be as a non-conformance in accordance with the owner’s quality management system. The corrective action shall describe the process used to defer the inspections and include a monitoring and safety plan in place to ensure the continued safe operation of pressure equipment. **The non-conformance report and a completed AB-87c form shall be emailed to [deferrals@absa.ca](mailto:deferrals@absa.ca)** . The assigned safety codes officer shall review the report and accept the disposition if they are satisfied the deferral process is reasonable in consideration of the circumstances.

These modifications have been implemented as a temporary measure to address the severe constraints on resources caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The constraints on resources make it extremely difficult to plan and execute turnarounds in 2020, and will result in cascading impact on future turnarounds. It is anticipated that owners of large inventories of pressure equipment will have the practical need to defer inspections for a large number of objects, and that the deferrals will be in excess of one year. It will not be practical to submit each individually to ABSA for prior acceptance.

This modification is effective 2020-03-27 and expires 2021-12-31. Deferrals made after 2021-12-31 shall follow the current version of AB-506.

The non-conformance associated with this Information Bulletin must be issued and approved by the expiry date of this Information Bulletin; however the inspection dates

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for pressure equipment covered by the non-conformance may extend past the expiry date of this Information Bulletin as per the plan presented in the non-conformance.

Background

This Information Bulletin provides compliance guidance for the following provisions of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation:

*39(3) A pressure relief device must be serviced at an interval acceptable to the Administrator.*

*41 An integrity assessment program with respect to pressure equipment must include, but is not restricted to,*

*...*

*(b) assessing the pressure equipment in accordance with the integrity assessment requirements established by the Administrator,*

*...*

*(f) any other matter required by the Administrator.*

*42(1) The owner of pressure equipment must, unless exempted by the Administrator, establish and maintain an integrity assessment program acceptable to the Administrator,*

*43 A person shall not perform integrity assessments of pressure equipment unless that person (a) holds qualifications that are acceptable to the Administrator,...*

*<original signed by>*

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