

VARIANCE

**No. VA20-002
(IB20-009)**

Subject Variance to Section 2(1) of the Power Engineers Regulation.

Date of Issue April 3, 2020

This Variance applies to Province wide variance applies to Chief Power Engineer providing overall supervision to any power plant.

Reason for variance

Section 2(1) of the Power Engineers Regulation requires:

2(1) A power plant may not be operated unless it is

(a) under the overall supervision of a chief power engineer who holds a certificate of competency that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Schedule for a power plant of that type and capacity and who is not a shift engineer for that power plant,

Due to the work site absenteeism caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, some chief power engineers are having difficulty staffing all power plant shifts with qualified shift engineers. The chief power engineer is qualified to provide continuous supervision, but is prohibited from doing so by Section 2 as stated above.

The chief power engineer is qualified to operate the power plant. It is understood the Section 2(1)(a) prohibition was established to facilitate the chief power engineer's ability to provide effective technical and administrative supervision of all shift engineers. These duties would be significantly decreased if the shift engineers are unable to report to work. The chief engineer working temporarily as a shift engineer provides equivalent level of operational safety.

Details of variance

This is a temporary variance to allow a chief power engineer to provide continuous supervision of the plant to cover absences due to COVID-19 related absences, subject to the following conditions.

1. The chief power engineer may provide continuous supervision of the plant only to cover absences due to the COVID-19 illness treatment or self-isolation measures when the absence cannot otherwise be covered by existing qualified personnel.
2. The chief power engineer who provides continuous supervision as a shift engineer in a power plant must maintain a record of this coverage. An acceptable record is an entry in the power plant log book for each shift for which continuous supervision is provided by

the chief power engineer.

3. The chief power engineer must provide notification to the Administrator of the intention to provide continuous supervision as a shift engineer at the start of the first shift.
4. The chief power engineer must subsequently provide notification to the Administrator when it is no longer necessary for him or her to provide the continuous supervision.
5. This Variance shall remain in effect until the Alberta government declares the COVID-19 public health emergency over.

All other requirements of the Safety Codes Act and regulations apply.

Variance is specific and non-precedent setting

This Variance is specific and sets no precedent.

Authority under which the Variance is being issued

Section 38(1) of the Safety Codes Act, Chapter S-1

Advisement of Offence

Contravention of a condition of this Variance is an offence under the Safety Codes Act.

Approval of Administrator

<original signed by>

Mike Poehlmann, P.L. (Eng.)
Administrator
Pressure Equipment Safety
Province of Alberta

Accredited organization employing the Administrator

ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority
9410 – 20 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6N 0A4

Phone: 780-437-9100
Fax: 780-437-7787

Submission of a copy of Variance to the Safety Codes Council

A copy of this Variance will be submitted to:

Safety Codes Council

Unit 500, 10405 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 3N4

Explanation of variance

A Variance is written permission issued to build, install, process or otherwise act in a manner not consistent with the specific requirements of an applicable code, standard or regulation but which provides, in the opinion of the issuing Administrator, an equivalent level of safety to persons and property.