

**Information Bulletin No. IB20-015**

**May 15, 2020**

## **ABSA COVID-19 Measures**

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, ABSA has taken reasonable measures to protect its staff and support the health of our community by implementing physical distancing practices to help reduce the spread of the virus. ABSA is implementing a cautious “relaunch” strategy with a phased in approach that aligns with that of the Alberta Government’s.

This Information Bulletin replaces IB20-006 which is hereby withdrawn.

ABSA offices have been closed to the public, guests and visitors since March 16, 2020. Except for examinations at our Edmonton office, offices will remain closed until such time as we consider it safe and appropriate to reopen and in conformance to the Alberta Health guidelines and restrictions.

ABSA is continuing to provide services. Any work that can be done from home is and will continue to be done from home. A small number of staff will be working at our offices to perform critical tasks that cannot be done elsewhere. We will continue to receive mail and courier deliveries at our offices. Payment for goods and services received by ABSA will not be interrupted. It is not business as usual, but we are committed to providing the best services we can under the circumstances.

- Power engineer and other written examinations will be offered in our Edmonton office only, beginning Tuesday 19 May 2020. Examination procedures have been developed to ensure proper physical distancing and hygiene practices. Examinations will be limited to 10 candidates per sitting, and there will be 3 sittings per day, Monday to Friday.
- Welder testing will resume in Calgary and Edmonton on 21 May 2020
  - Please refer to the homepage at [www.absa.ca](http://www.absa.ca) for the latest information on examinations and welder tests.
- All seminars have been cancelled through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- We appreciate the response to our request for all clients to submit designs electronically via email or, once an account is set up, through the new CRNOnline web portal. We will continue to accept hard copy submissions, but processing these will take longer than the current norm. Wherever feasible, please submit all designs electronically.
  - The requirement to have the statutory declaration notarized for fitting designs is suspended.
- We continue to respond to reports of unsafe conditions and accidents.
- We continue to provide shop inspection services, and repair and alteration inspection services at shop and field sites. Inspectors will continue to conduct a COVID-19 Job Safety Analysis (JSA) prior to visiting the facility. Please be prepared to discuss the actions your company has taken to protect your staff and our staff. We appreciate the cooperative approach we have experienced at shop and field sites. It is obvious that those in our industry take this public health crisis seriously and are doing their part to prevent the spread.

- We are resuming in-service inspections and quality system audits on a case-by-case basis and will determine our response on the outcome of a COVID-19 Job Safety Analysis (JSA) prior to visiting the facility. Some activities may be conducted using video technology.
- Please submit quality system applications and associated documentation (manuals etc.) electronically.
- No in-person meetings will be held at ABSA offices until further notice. Previously scheduled in-person meetings are now cancelled, but may be rescheduled to a virtual format.
- ABSA staff can be contacted by email or by telephone in the usual manner.

ABSA management is monitoring the situation and reviewing our contingencies on a daily basis.

Stay safe and stay healthy,

*<original signed by>*

Mike Poehlmann  
General Manager