

**VARIANCE**

**No. VA20-007  
(IB20-014)**

*Subject* Variance to Section 18(1) of the Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003). Qualifying to take a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Power Engineer's Certificate of Competency examination.

*Date of Issue* May 14, 2020

*This Variance applies to* Province wide variance applies to the students enrolled in a full time classroom based power engineering program acceptable to the Administrator in the province of Alberta.

*Reason for variance* Section 18(1) of the Power Engineers Regulation requires:

**18(1) To qualify to take a 3rd Class Power Engineer's Certificate of Competency examination, a candidate must hold a 4th Class Power Engineer's Certificate of Competency.**

Students in full time classroom based power engineering programs are required to complete the 4<sup>th</sup> class part of the program, pass the 4<sup>th</sup> class certification examinations, obtain the specified experience, and obtain 4<sup>th</sup> class certification prior to completing the 3<sup>rd</sup> class part of the program and writing the 3<sup>rd</sup> class certification examinations. The COVID-19 pandemic has required the providers of 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Power Engineer classroom programs in Alberta to suspend delivery of their programs. This has left many students unable to obtain or complete work placements or practicums that are normally part of their programs. Consequently, they do not qualify for a 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate and are ineligible to continue their studies in the power engineering program.

This Variance provides temporary opportunity for students who are enrolled in a 3<sup>rd</sup> class power engineering program to challenge 3<sup>rd</sup> class examinations as scheduled in the program even though they do not hold a valid 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate at the time of challenging the examination.

*Details of variance* This is a temporary variance to permit students in a 3<sup>rd</sup> class full time program to challenge 3<sup>rd</sup> class examinations even though they do not hold a valid 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate as required by Section 18(1) of the regulation. To qualify to challenge a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class examination paper, the student must:

1. Be enrolled in a 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Power Engineer day program acceptable to the Administrator.
2. Have passed the 4A and 4B examination papers.

The student is required to complete all operating experience requirements for issuance of a 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate. The student will still be required to meet the operating experience requirements for 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Certification after they have been issued a 4<sup>th</sup> Class Certificate. A 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Certificate will not be issued until all

certification requirements are fully satisfied. This Variance expires no later than May 1, 2021. The Variance may be withdrawn at an earlier date if restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic no longer limit the training organizations in delivery of their program in compliance with the approved program standard.

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.