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OFF-SEASON BOILER LAY-UP

In Alberta's cold climate, heating boilers are a necessity of life. An unexpected boiler failure during the winter months can be more than a simple inconvenience: winter's sub-zero temperatures can cause damage to property when pipes are allowed to freeze, and can endanger life when people rely on the buildings they heat for shelter from the cold.

Some boilers are not required to operate during warmer periods, and when they are taken out of service for extended periods of time, owners should consider proper "lay-up" in order to reduce the risk of accelerated corrosion during storage. Proper lay-up of a boiler is primarily intended to protect the boiler from damage, but also provides a convenient opportunity for inspection and maintenance which can increase the unit's efficiency, make it more reliable, and extend its service life.

Two of the most common lay-up methods are wet lay-ups and dry lay-ups. Each has its own advantages: a wet lay-up involves filling the boiler with treated water for storage and allows for rapid start-up if the unit is needed on short notice, but requires more careful monitoring and introduces the risk of freezing damage if it is exposed to sub-zero temperatures. A dry lay-up requires less monitoring in storage and does not need to be protected from freezing temperatures, but needs to be refilled with water before it can be used and is more difficult to return it to service if it is needed on short notice.

Although owners are advised to consult a boiler manufacturer's documentation or a qualified specialist with respect to cold storage and lay-up requirements for specific boiler models, The National Board has published an article on their website, [Lay-Up of Heating Boilers](#), which provides general discussion and an overview of some of the steps involved. ❖

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CAUTION

Previous issues of The Pressure News may contain information which is outdated or no longer valid. Please be cautious when using information from old articles.

PROVIDING FEEDBACK & RESOLVING CONCERNS

ABSA regularly welcomes feedback from its stakeholders in order to improve customer service and identify potential issues. Although most concerns can be resolved quickly by dealing directly with the people involved, there are recommended means of escalating issues that cannot be satisfactorily addressed at that level. More information about recommended channels for feedback is published on the 'Feedback' page in the 'Contact Us' area of ABSA's website at www.absa.ca.

ABSA also continuously conducts an online survey that invites feedback on its programs and services from a more general cross-section of its stakeholders. A link to the survey is sometimes sent out with ABSA correspondence in the course of regular business, and is included on the 'Feedback' page discussed above. Survey responses are reviewed on a periodic basis and distributed as needed so that any required actions can be considered, with the aim of improving the level of service provided. You can participate in the survey by visiting https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ABSA_Feedback. ❖

ACPEEC ONLINE CONFERENCE

This year, the Alberta Chief Power Engineers Education Committee (ACPEEC) will be holding its annual 2021 conference on October 27 by virtual means. Although the conference will not have the in-person networking component that attendees look forward to every year, the committee is looking forward to meeting with guests remotely for a wonderful day of education and collaboration with some of Alberta's Chief Power Engineers. Making the early decision to hold it remotely has allowed the committee to focus on planning without having to worry about needing to make unexpected changes to the event.

ACPEEC's main mandate is to provide an education conference every year for the education and betterment of Alberta's Chief Power Engineers. This year, the committee has put a considerable amount of additional effort into holding periodic webinars in order to help keep power engineers engaged throughout the year. Although the webinars have largely been successful, they have been a substantial amount of work to facilitate, and so the committee is now directing its attention to planning its annual conference.

Conference registration is expected to open in mid-August, and will be announced on ACPEEC's website at acpeec.ca. ❖

NEW ONLINE FORM SUBMISSION PLATFORM

ABSA has launched a new online form submission platform, with the intent of making some of its standardized forms more conveniently available for online submission via the web. An initial offering of forms has been added from a variety of ABSA departments:

Examination and Certification Department:

- AB-066a Power Engineers Declaration of Operating Experience
- AB-067a Chief Power Engineer – Authorizing Supervision

Inspection Department:

- AB-010 Boiler and Pressure Vessel Status Report
- AB-085 Request for Exemption 103 kPa
- AB-085a Request for Exemption Heating Boiler
- AB-086 Request for Exemption for Non-Expansible Fluid Service
- AB-097 Unsafe Condition, Accident or Fire Report

Design Survey Department:

- AB-081 Completion of Construction Declaration

Finance Department:

- AB-310 Credit Card Authorization Consent Form

As ABSA continues to move toward providing convenient electronic services, the array of forms available electronically will be expanded. The online form platform is available at <https://forms.absa.ca/form>. ❖

2021 ALBERTA CODE UPDATE SEMINAR

This year in October, ABSA is planning for remote, online delivery of the 2021 Alberta Code Update Seminar via Microsoft Teams. The seminar will be a full day and will be broadcast live from ABSA's Edmonton office on October 7 and again on October 14, allowing participants to use any modern web browser and a reliable high-speed internet connection to attend remotely.

A good number of Alberta's adopted codes and standards are expected to be revised in the coming months, and will be made a part of this year's seminar. Presentations are being planned relating to the recently released 2020 Edition of the ASME B31.3 Process Piping code, and to the 2021 editions of Section VIII-1, Section VIII-2, Section I, and Section IV of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, which are expected to be released in July. The seminar will also include an introduction to the new Section XIII, which consolidates requirements relating to pressure relief that have until now been spread throughout the other code sections.

Although many parts of life are expected to return to normal in the coming months, the Alberta Code Update Seminar is an event that requires planning and coordination with off-site venues, and the decision was made to offer this year's seminar only remotely in order to minimize the risk of having to make unexpected changes. This year's seminar will be provided free of charge, and registration will be made available on ABSA's seminars website at seminars.absa.ca in the coming weeks. ❖

2021 SOPEEC AND IPECC ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Standardization of Power Engineer Examinations Committee (SOPEEC) and the Interprovincial Power Engineering Curriculum Committee (IPECC) are interprovincial committees which have worked closely together for almost five decades to help standardize education and certification requirements for power engineering among Canadian provinces. A person holding a power engineering certificate of competency in Alberta with the SOPEEC seal imprinted on it has successfully completed standardized examinations for that qualification level, and can seek certification as a power engineer in other participating jurisdictions without having to rewrite the exams.

SOPEEC is ultimately responsible for the content of power engineering examinations written across the country. Its main objective is to improve the mobility of power engineers between member jurisdictions by producing standardized examination content and by promoting a standardized system by which the exams are administered. The committee was formed in 1972 and held its first national meeting in 1973, comprising representatives from many jurisdictions across Canada. Members get together once a year to support collaborative development of power engineering syllabuses and examination content, and aim to align some other certification requirements between provinces. The committee is invitation-only and meetings are held behind closed doors, as its members work directly with examination questions and similar materials that need to remain confidential.

IPECC was formed a few years later in 1974, and is a separate open-membership committee comprised of industry representatives and other people having an interest in the education and development of power engineering candidates. Its primary function is to involve industry stakeholders and to advise SOPEEC on required examination and syllabus content. Industry participation in the committee ensures that curriculum learning objectives and certification requirements reflect the industry's current and most practical needs, providing candidates with the knowledge they need to safely operate the technologies seen in modern pressure equipment.

During the week of June 21, 2021, both IPECC and SOPEEC held their annual meetings online, rather than in Halifax as had previously been planned. The IPECC meeting had more than 40 people in attendance, largely representing training organizations and the industry stakeholders who employ power engineers and have a vested interest in ensuring that the syllabuses remain comprehensive and relevant. Over a period of a few days, the committee reviewed the curriculums for all five power engineering classes, along with the standardized refrigeration curriculum and associated examination reference materials.

SOPEEC's meeting was held immediately after, with consideration given to IPECC's recommended changes. Some of the other highlights of SOPEEC's meeting included reviewing the year's progress on converting essay-style examinations to multiple choice, and reviewing and accepting its annual budget, which is a cost that is shared between participating provincial jurisdictions once it has been accepted by the Association of Chief Inspectors.

IPECC and SOPEEC's next annual meetings are tentatively scheduled to be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in June of 2022. ❖

DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY ABSA

The following documents issued by ABSA are linked below, and available on our website at www.absa.ca.

2020-03-30 – *AB-521: Requirements for Engineered Pressure Enclosures, Edition 2, Revision 1* was issued with major changes to Annex A detailing requirements for acceptance of 'RRIMR' submissions based on the 'quality plan' approach.

2021-04-28 – *AB-536: Requirements for the Integrity Management of Grade 91 Steel Used Above Currently-Permitted Allowable Stresses, Edition 1, Revision 1* was reaffirmed, with removed mention of the August 2020 implementation deadline.

Other documents have been updated with editorial and other minor changes. ❖

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