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Interpretation Owner's Designation of Chief Power Engineer for Rotational Duty Assignments

This Information Bulletin provides direction to the owner and the chief power engineer regarding policy requirements for designating the person responsible to fulfill the responsibilities of chief power engineer for rotational duty assignments. This Information Bulletin replaces IB12-009 which has been withdrawn.

The Power Engineers Regulation establishes the requirement for a chief power engineer to provide overall supervision of a power plant.

Power Engineers Regulation Sections **1(g)** and **2(1)(b)**:

1(g) "chief power engineer" means a person who

- (i) holds a certificate of competency of a classification that meets or exceeds the requirements under this Regulation respecting supervision for that plant type and capacity, and
- (ii) has been designated by the owner of a power plant to fulfill the responsibilities of the chief power engineer;

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

- (b) 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 such a power plant and who is not a shift engineer for that power plant.

The Power Engineers Regulation requirements were established to support traditional working arrangements in which the chief power engineer is a full time employee expected to be at work during normal business hours Monday to Friday excluding vacation and statutory holidays.

Some power plants currently operate with the chief power engineer on rotational duty assignments. For example, a regular seven days on and seven days off rotation. Chief power engineer absence from the plant for this period of time does not comply with Section 14(6) of the Power Engineers, which allows for absences of up to 96 hours.

The owner must have a policy that clearly defines the process for designating a person to fulfill the responsibilities of chief power engineer for different time periods. This policy shall ensure that the responsibilities of the chief power engineer as established by the Power Engineers Regulation are fulfilled. The owner is responsible to ensure the designated person is aware of their responsibilities as chief power engineer. The policy must address the following:

1. The process of designating the acting chief power engineer for each period of time. The process ensure that the designated person is competent and holds a Certification of Competency that meets or exceeds the certification required under the Power Engineers Regulation.
2. The period of time during which the designation is in effect. There shall be no gap in the chief power engineer's coverage. The policy must address overlap of coverage, and define the turnover process between the chief power engineer and the acting chief power engineer.
3. The manner in which the designation of the acting chief power engineer for each effective period is acknowledged by the designee and is communicated to the shift engineers, assistant shift engineers and assistant engineers.

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Mike Poehlmann, P.L. (Eng.)
Administrator, Province of Alberta Pressure Equipment Safety
Chief Inspector, ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority