Alberta Municipal Affairs

ABSA
the pressure equipment safety authority

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REPLACED BY IB25-017

INTERPRETATION
Overpressure Protection Requirements

This Information Bulletin supersedes IB13-003 issued March 12, 2013 which is hereby withdrawn.

As provided for under section 38 of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation, this Information Bulletin establishes that ABSA document *AB-525: Overpressure Protection Requirements, Edition 2, Revision 0*, provides guidance and specifies requirements that must be met for overpressure protection of pressure equipment in Alberta.

Section 38 of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (AR 49/2006) states:

> *(1) An owner of pressure equipment must ensure it has overpressure protection that is*
> *(a) a pressure relief valve that meets the requirements of the ASME Code, or*
> *(b) other means of overpressure protection acceptable to the Administrator.*
> *(2) A pressure relief device must be set to open before the pressure in the pressure equipment exceeds the maximum allowable working pressure of the pressure equipment.*
> *(3) An owner of pressure equipment must ensure that the overpressure protection system is designed and maintained so that the maximum pressure in the pressure equipment does not exceed the prescribed limit of overpressure allowed in the applicable code declared in force by this Regulation.*

AB-525 provides guidance to aid in compliance when pressure equipment is protected by pressure relief valves in accordance with subsection 38(1)(a), and establishes for the acceptance and registration of certain specific other methods of overpressure protection in accordance with subsection 38(1)(b) without applying for case-by-case consideration.

This new edition constitutes a complete rewrite with changes based on input from industry. It provides clarification with respect to overpressure risk assessment requirements, permits the use of mixed overpressure protection methods without applying for case-by-case consideration, and establishes new provisions for open-to-atmosphere discharge piping systems. Annex A introduces a method of taking

exception to a specific basic rule established by the document by making a case for equivalent safety at the time of design submission.

Conformity to AB-525 Edition 2 is mandatory for design registration applications made after March 31, 2022.

AB-525 Edition 1 may be applied to overpressure protection provisions for existing pressure equipment, to designs that have already been registered, and to design registration applications made on or before March 31, 2022.

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