1. FIRED PROCESS HEATER OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATION

1.1 Introduction

This document is designed to outline ABSA's certification procedures and requirements for the Fired Process Heater Operator's Certificate of Competency. The certification requirements can be found in the Power Engineers Regulation and in the Fired Process Heater Operator's Reference Syllabus (AB-239), which can be found on the ABSA website using this link.

1.2 Elements

A. Scope of Certification

The Power Engineers Regulation states the scope of certification for the Fired Process Heater Operator's Certificate of Competency. The holder is authorized to supervise power plants referred to in section 2.1(1), as shown in Row 7 of Table 5 of the Schedule, and in section 2.1(2), as shown in Row 7 of Table 1 of the Schedule. The holder may also supervise a thermal liquid heating system referred to in Section 3 or 3.1, as shown in Row 7 of Table 5 of the Schedule.

B. Job and Task Description

A Fired Process Heater Operator's scope of practice may include the following:

- general supervision of a power plant that uses thermal liquid under pressure of a blanketing gas not exceeding 700 kPa
- reduced supervision of a power plant that does not produce steam and that uses thermal liquid under pressure of a blanketing gas not exceeding 700 kPa or a water-glycol mixture with a minimum of 40% glycol
- general supervision of a thermal liquid heating system greater than 250 kW

More information regarding the scope of practice of a Power Engineer can be found in Sections 1–4 of the Power Engineers Regulation.

C. Required Competence

A Fired Process Heater Operator must be competent in the operational and safety requirements of specified power plants and thermal liquid heating systems.

Candidates must successfully complete an approved Fired Process Heater Operator's Course offered through a recognized technical institute or training provider.

D. Prerequisites

The Power Engineers Regulation states that the prerequisites for certification include the following:

- pass the Fired Process Heater Operator's Certificate of Competency examination
- work experience as specified in the Power Engineers Regulation

More information regarding these prerequisites can also be found on the ABSA website.

E. Code of Conduct

The Power Engineers Regulation states the following with respect to code of conduct for a power engineer:

"Unsafe operation

5(1) *A power engineer*

(a) must take reasonable actions necessary to maintain a power plant, heating plant or thermal liquid heating system in a safe operating condition, and

(b) shall not operate a boiler, pressure vessel, power plant, heating plant or thermal liquid heating system if that power engineer is of the opinion that it is unsafe to do so."

1.3 Certification Process Requirements

A. Criteria for Initial Certification and Recertification

The certification requirements are as follows:

- apply for the examination
- pay the examination fee
- satisfy certification prerequisites
- pass the required examination paper

The Power Engineers Regulation (AR 85/2003) states that a "certificate of competency remains valid so long as it is renewed annually on or before the date specified by the Administrator."

The recertification requirements for power engineers are as follows:

- submit a completed application form AB-73
- pay the renewal fee indicated on the application form

Information regarding certification and recertification can be found on the ABSA website.

B. Assessment Methods for Initial Certification and Recertification

Applicants must meet the minimum requirements for initial certification, as outlined above in 8.3 A. A certificate is issued after a candidate passes the required exam for Fired Process Heater Operator's certification. No additional fees are required before a certificate is issued.

Applicants may contest the outcome of an assessment in accordance with ABSA's policy on certification appeals. A request for an exam remark can be applied for using the Request for Exam Re-Mark form (AB-242).

C. Surveillance Methods and Criteria

It should be noted that a Fired Process Heater Operator may be subject to informal surveillance as part of the ABSA audit of their employer's quality management system.

D. Criteria for Suspending and Withdrawing Certification

The Alberta Safety Codes Act (42(3)) states that an Administrator may suspend or cancel a certificate of competency if the Administrator, on reasonable and probable grounds, is of the opinion that the person

- no longer complies with the requirements of this Act for a certificate of competency or
- does not comply with this Act when acting pursuant to the certificate of competency

E. Criteria for Changing the Scope or Level of Certification

Criteria for changing the scope or level of certification are detailed in AB-239.

1.4 Development, Review, and Validation

Industry/volunteer subject-matter experts are consulted as needed to review and validate AB-239.

1.5 Ongoing Review

Ongoing review of the AB-239 is achieved informally through industry-stakeholder consultation and feedback.