

1. IN-SERVICE PRESSURE EQUIPMENT INSPECTOR CERTIFICATION

1.1 Introduction

This document is designed to outline ABSA's certification procedures and requirements for the In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector Certificate of Competency in accordance with AB-526, which can be found on the ABSA website using this [link](#).

1.2 Elements

A. Scope of Certification

The scope of certification for the In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector Certificate of Competency authorizes the holder of the certificate to perform integrity assessment of pressure equipment within the scope of the certificate and as designated by their employer under the employer's quality management system Certificate or Authorization Permit issued pursuant to the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation.

There are three types of certificates:

- In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector, which includes all types of pressure equipment (ISI-BPVPP). This is equivalent to the Certificate of Competency titled *In-Service Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspector (IBPV)* that was previously issued.
- In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector (Pressure Vessels and Pressure Piping), which excludes boilers (ISI-PVPP). This is equivalent to the Certificate of Competency titled *In-Service Pressure Vessel Inspector (IPV)* that was previously issued.
- In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector (Pressure Piping), which excludes boilers and pressure vessels (ISI-PP)

Information regarding the scope of certification can also be found on the ABSA website using the following [link](#).

B. Job and Task Description

An In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector's scope of practice may include the following and can be found via this [link](#):

- performs the duties of the person responsible for the owner's integrity assessment program
- supervises in-service pressure equipment inspectors
- performs installation inspections of new or relocated pressure equipment
- inspects and certifies in-service pressure equipment
- approves inspection reports, inspection procedures, and inspection and test plans, as specified in their employer's Owner-User Program
- prepares and files detailed inspection reports for all pressure equipment as well as submits summary inspection reports to ABSA in a timely fashion
- inspects and certifies pressure equipment repairs

C. Required Competence

In-service inspectors must be competent to perform the assigned inspection activities as well as the following:

- a thorough understanding of the Safety Codes Act, Regulations, and CSA B51 applicable to pressure equipment in Alberta
- a thorough understanding of all appropriate forms and reporting requirements

Information regarding competency can be found in [AB-526](#) and on the ABSA [website](#).

D. Prerequisites

Prerequisites for certification include the following:

- combination of education and pressure equipment experience, as specified in [AB-526](#) and the ABSA [website](#)
- documented evidence of having passed the National Board In-Service Commission exam, API 510 authorized pressure vessel inspector certification examination, or API 570 authorized piping inspector certification examination
- successful completion of the In-Service Pressure Equipment Inspector Certification Exam

E. Code of Conduct

The Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation states the following with respect to conduct of integrity assessments:

“A person shall not perform an integrity assessment of pressure equipment unless that person holds qualifications that are acceptable to the Administrator, and satisfies the conditions prescribed in the certificate of competency if such a certificate has been issued to the person.”

1.3 Certification Process Requirements

A. Criteria for Initial Certification and Recertification

The certification requirements are as follows:

- apply for examination
- pay the examination fee
- satisfy certification prerequisites
- pass the inspector certification examination

The three key recertification requirements are as follows:

- in-service pressure equipment inspection experience
- continuing education in pressure equipment
- successfully passing a re-certification examination

Information regarding certification and recertification requirements can be found in [AB-526](#) and 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. These requirements are assessed by an ABSA Examiner upon submission of form [AB-88](#), Application for In-service Pressure Equipment Inspector Certification.

For recertification, an online examination is needed, which refreshes the in-service pressure equipment inspector about the Act and Regulation requirements and various ABSA in-service pressure equipment inspector safety programs. This information is available on the ABSA [website](#).

Applicants may contest the outcome of an assessment in accordance with ABSA's [Policy on Certification Appeals](#).

C. Surveillance Methods and Criteria

It should be noted that in-service inspectors 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

A certificate becomes void upon its expiry unless it is renewed.

E. Criteria for Changing the Scope or Level of Certification

Criteria for changing the scope or level of certification are detailed in [AB-526](#).

1.4 Development, Review, and Validation

An industry-volunteer subject matter expert (SME) task group formed by ABSA provides input to AB-526 and helps validate examination questions. This task group includes members from various segments of the industry and from the [Pressure Equipment Sub-Council](#). Together, they ensure that all requirements for in-service inspectors are appropriate to the needs set forth by industry.

1.5 Ongoing Review

The same SME task group referred to in 8.4 is involved in the ongoing, systematic review, and validation of the certification scheme.