

VARIANCE

**No. VA23-006
(IB23-031)**

Subject

Variance to Subsection 14.1 of the *Pressure Welders Regulation (AR 169/2002, with 2014 Amendments)* regarding qualifications to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination.

This Variance and Information Bulletin replaces VA15-010 (IB15-010) which has been withdrawn.

Date of Issue

July 28, 2023

This Variance applies to

Province-wide Variance

Reason for variance

Subsection 14.1(2)(b) lists the following journeymen to be eligible to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination:

- (b) hold a trade certificate in the designated trade of
 - (i) boilermaker,
 - (ii) steamfitter-pipefitter, or
 - (iii) metal fabricator (fitter)

under the *Skilled Trades and Apprenticeship Education Act*.

Welder apprentices are eligible to take the Pressure Tack Welder examination in accordance with Subsection 14.1(2)(a). Apprentices in the boilermaker, steamfitter-pipefitter or metal fabricator (fitter) trades are all expected to learn and develop welding skills throughout their apprenticeship. Feedback from industry stakeholders has expressed concern that prohibiting apprentices of the above trades from taking the Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination hinders their ability to learn such skills through the performance of production work. The limited utilization of apprentices for production work would in turn reduce their employment opportunities. This variance is intended to remove such barriers and to promote the development of welding skills for apprentices in the named trades.

Details of variance

Subsection 14.1(2)(b) is hereby varied to allow apprentices in the boilermaker, steamfitter-pipefitter or metal fabricator (fitter) trades to be eligible to take a Pressure Tack Welder Certificate of Competency examination on condition that:

The candidate will provide a letter of certification by the candidate's employer that the candidate has completed at least 40 hours of practical training in welding processes to be used in the skills test, and this 40 hours shall not include classroom lecture time.

All other requirements of the Pressure Welders Regulation apply.

Variance is specific and non-precedent setting

This Variance is specific and sets no precedent.

Authority under which the Variance is being issued

Section 38(1) of the Safety Codes Act, Chapter S-1

Advisement of Offence

Contravention of a condition of this Variance is an offence under Section 67(4)(b) of the Safety Codes Act.

Approval of Administrator

<original signed by>

Djordje Srnica, M.Sc., P.Eng.
Chief Inspector and Administrator
Pressure Equipment Safety
Province of Alberta

Accredited organization employing the Administrator

ABSA the pressure equipment safety authority
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Edmonton, Alberta T6N 0A4

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Submission of a copy of Variance to the Safety Codes Council

A copy of this Variance will be submitted to:

Safety Codes Council
1000, 10665 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J 3S9

Explanation of variance

A Variance is written permission issued to build, install, process or otherwise act in a manner not consistent with the specific requirements of an applicable code, standard or regulation but which provides, in the opinion of the issuing Administrator, an equivalent level of safety to persons and property.