

PRESSURE NEWS

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PRESIDENT AND CEO'S YEAR-END MESSAGE

ABSA's top priority is the safety of the public, our employees, and the people who work around pressure equipment. We are proud that our services support the Alberta pressure equipment industry's continued efforts for effective integrity management of their equipment and ensuring the safety of their workers.

This year, we received 300 unsafe condition, accident, and fire reports. Eleven workers were reported injured and fortunately there were no fatalities. ABSA investigates reported unsafe conditions, accidents, and fires for purpose of identifying the cause to ensure appropriate corrective actions are implemented to prevent recurrence.

ABSA is committed to a safe workplace for its employees. We are pleased to report that ABSA employees had a safe year in terms of workplace accidents and incidents, there were no lost time injuries ABSA maintains a Certificate of Recognition (COR) for its health and safety management system. The renewal audit was completed in November 2022 and an annual monitoring audit was completed in November 2023.

ABSA service delivery activity levels were generally higher than last year. Notably shop inspection activity increased by 26%. Service delivery activity levels, particularly in the areas

of design registration and new construction inspections, typically trend up and down in step with energy prices and the economic cycle. Activity levels have not yet fully recovered from pre-pandemic levels.

Looking forward, we remain confident in our ability to adapt to future conditions and continue providing excellent service because of our complement of knowledgeable, competent and dedicated staff. I want to acknowledge the excellent work all our people are doing with the common goal of promoting pressure equipment safety. I also wish to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our Board of Directors in providing sound governance and strategic guidance which is greatly appreciate by management and staff.

All of us at ABSA would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for this holiday season, and a healthy, safe, and prosperous New Year.

“ I want to acknowledge the excellent work all our people are doing with the common goal of promoting pressure equipment safety. ”

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WHAT'S NEW: ENHANCEMENTS IN THE PROCESS FOR STAMPING AND REGISTRATION OF DESIGNS

As part of ABSA's ongoing commitment to improving services and leveraging the benefits of technology to streamline and accelerate industry operations, ABSA is announcing a significant enhancement to its design registration process. Aimed at aligning with the digital era, ABSA is transitioning from its traditional paper-based and existing digital processes to a fully integrated digital system for design registration.

“ ABSA is announcing a significant enhancement to its design registration process. ”

THE FOLLOWING ENHANCEMENTS HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO THE ABSA'S DESIGN REGISTRATION PROCESS:

A

The “**Certificate of Design Registration**”, will replace the conventional “letter of registration” and the way Safety Codes Officer's stamp is placed on a design accepted for registration.

B

A detailed folder of digital files will be created for each design found acceptable for registration in accordance with the *Safety Codes Act and Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation*. Each folder of digital files will:

- include the “Certificate of Design Registration” and all digital files included in the registration of the design; and
- be securely compressed and encrypted to confirm the authenticity of the documents.

C

The hashing system will be used to:

- establish, compress, encrypt, and secure each folder of digital files;
- create a comprehensive and unique digital footprint of the registration of the design,
- ensure and maintain the **traceability, integrity and authenticity** of the design registration records; and
- simplify the verification process against ABSA's records.

Each “**Certificate of Design Registration**” digital folder consists of four parts:

1. The “Certificate of Design Registration” where this document, similar to the conventional “letter of registration”, provides details and conditions of design registration;
2. “Annex A” to the “Certificate of Design Registration”, a new feature, provides a list of essential digital files like drawings, calculations, specifications, and other design documents included in the registration of the design;
3. “ABSA's Big Red Stamp” embedded into Annex A where this stamp indicates acceptance of the registration of the design in accordance with the *Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation*, and
4. All digital files listed in Annex A.

For each design found acceptable for registration in accordance with the *Safety Codes Act and Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation*, a “Certificate of Design Registration” digital folder encrypted by hashing system will be sent to the individual who submitted the application, registration or another authorized representative.

The roll-out of the enhanced digitized system will be gradual, beginning with select manufacturers in Alberta with plans to expand further. The phased strategy allows ABSA to refine the process based on feedback from the selected participants. Additional guidelines will be made available on the ABSA website, supported by a dedicated technical advisory team. ABSA emphasizes the ongoing importance of

proper records maintenance in line with Alberta Regulations, ABSA's QMS and the manufacturer's QMS processes.

ABSA looks forward to shaping the future of design registration alongside its partners, setting new standards in the industry.

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2023 YEAR-END REVIEW OF ACCIDENTS

ABSA's mandate is to administer the *Safety Codes Act* and associated regulations, and to deliver safety programs as they relate to pressure equipment.

ABSA's ultimate quality objective is to prevent injury to people and damage to property arising from the operation of pressure equipment. When incidents do occur, a thorough investigation can help us learn from past mistakes, decreasing the likelihood of repeating an accident.

There were 300 incident reports submitted to ABSA from November 1st, 2022 and October 31st, 2023 as opposed to 233 in the previous year.



ABSA's ultimate quality objective is to prevent injury to people and damage to property arising from the operation of pressure equipment.



Unfortunately, this year, there were 11 injuries to personnel related to activities involving pressure equipment in Alberta:

- One worker was burned with hot water while conducting pump maintenance.
- One worker was burned by hot sulphur that leaked while unloading a truck.
- Four workers were exposed to an unintentional release of ammonia. Three of the workers required medical treatment at a local hospital.
- One worker was burned from an explosion due to a release of hydrocarbon from a vessel inside a building.
- Four workers were injured during a flash fire, with one of the workers receiving burns to their hands.

Equipment owners are reminded that the *Safety Codes Act* contains provisions for reporting unsafe conditions and accidents related to pressure equipment.

Information Bulletin **IB18-004 Rev 1: Reporting Unsafe Conditions, Accidents, and Fires**, clarifies the classification of incidents and their specific reporting requirements. Accident and incident summaries are published on ABSA's website:

www.absa.ca

under the 'Unsafe Condition, Accident & Fire Reporting' menu, by navigating to 'Summary of Unsafe Condition, Accident & Fire Reports'.

NEW EDITION OF THE BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL (BPV) CODE RELEASED JULY 1ST, 2023

ASME mandates that 6 months after the release of the 2023 BPV Code, implementation become mandatory (January 1st, 2024). Manufacturers are free to implement the Code earlier if they choose.

Under the provisions of the *Safety Codes Act*, unless the Minister adopts it sooner or later or with limitations, the 2023 BPV Code automatically "comes into force on the first day of the month following the expiry of 12 months after the date on which the amendment or replacement is published." Meaning it will be **mandatory in Alberta on August 1st, 2024.**

The users of the ASME codes are responsible to properly use new code editions in accordance with the requirements of the Alberta Regulations and ASME code of construction.

It shall be noted that code users may start using the new edition of the ASME BPV

code in Alberta immediately upon the code publication if there is no Ministerial Order stating otherwise. If a Manufacturer constructs an ASME BPVC Section VIII, Div. 1 pressure vessel that will have an ASME stamp, the Manufacturer may opt to use either the 2021 or 2023 edition of Section VIII, Div. 1 between July 1st and December 31st, 2023. After January 1st, 2024, the Manufacturer of a pressure vessel that will have an ASME stamp must use the 2023 edition of Section VIII, Div. 1.

Similarly, a Manufacturer constructing a pressure vessel under CSA B51 using the rules of Section VIII, Div. 1 will issue the Manufacturer Data Report in accordance with CSA B51. In this case, the Manufacturer



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may use either the 2021 or 2023 edition of Section VIII, Div. 1 in conjunction with CSA B51 until August 1st, 2024. After that date, the Manufacturers of pressure vessels may only use the 2023 edition of Section VIII, Div. 1 in conjunction with CSA B51.

PRICE INCREASE NOTICE FOR ANNUAL VESSEL FEES

ABSA implemented a fee increase of 4.77% November 1st, 2023 necessary to support the sustainability of the organization.

We do not take these decisions lightly and take every possible measure to absorb these rising costs internally. To continue delivering the quality and reliability you expect from us, we require adjusting our fee structure.

Consequently, please take the price increase of **4.77%** will also be applied to the **annual vessel fees** as of **March 1, 2024** for all in-service vessels.

ACQUIRING A NEW BOILER OR PRESSURE VESSEL

Owners acquiring pressure equipment from a vendor should ensure they understand the requirements to obtain a Certificate of Inspection Permit issued by an ABSA Safety Codes Officer.

Often during an inspection, Owners are surprised that due to requirements not being met a Certificate of Inspection Permit cannot be issued and follow-up is required. The following is a brief overview to assist when acquiring pressure equipment, in all cases the source document(s) must be consulted and read carefully and completely.

The Owner and contractor should consult AB-508 to determine if the vessel or boiler requires a Certificate of Inspection Permit to operate. Read the exemptions carefully and completely to determine if all or some conditions apply, the exemption conditions are very specific.

Canadian Registration Number (CRN) – PESR Sections 14 to 24 details requirements for design registration of certain pressure equipment. The term “design registration” is synonymous with a Canadian Registration Number (CRN). A CRN that is registered and accepted in Alberta has had its design registered with ABSA Design Survey.

Manufacturer’s Data Report (MDR) Requirements – this is the “birth certificate” of the vessel/boiler that certifies that it meets a code of construction. Most vessels/boilers are certified on an ASME MDR required by the ASME Code. Items built in Canada may use a CSA MDR as described in CSA B51.

Nameplates – PESR Section 28 provides nameplate and stamping requirements for vessel/boilers. The two main differences are whether the items were fabricated inside or outside of Canada. For items fabricated outside of Canada, the nameplate must have an ASME Code Symbol and National Board registration number indicating the item is registered with the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT ABSA

ABSA is looking for technical professionals who are interested in being part Alberta’s pressure equipment safety system. The following positions are currently open for applications:

QUALITY SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (QSCP) AUDITOR

Calgary & Edmonton Regions

QSCP Auditors work in our Inspections department and conduct quality management system audits of Alberta companies.

PRESSURE EQUIPMENT FIELD INSPECTOR

Grande Prairie Region

Field Inspectors conduct inspections of in-service pressure equipment.

For more information, visit www.absa.ca/jobs

All ABSA AB-500 documents and Information Bulletins are available free of charge at www.absa.ca

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