



# Safety Codes Council

## MINUTES OF THE FIRST BOILERS & PRESSURE VESSELS TECHNICAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2015

**DATE:** January 23, 2015

**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. to 2:15 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Radisson Edmonton South, Edmonton

**PRESENT:** Brian Lade, Chair  
Mike Clancy  
Dr. Magdi Ghobrial  
Brian Grantham  
Marvin Kossowan  
Todd Loran  
David Miller (arrived at 9:15 a.m.)  
Izak Roux, Vice Chair  
John Valens  
Ward Wagner  
Jim Weiss  
John Wolff  
Mike Poehlmann, Administrator & Chief Inspector  
Djordje Sronic, ABSA  
Allan Hantelmann, Alberta Municipal Affairs  
Harry Li, Alberta Municipal Affairs  
Danielle Paradis, Safety Codes Council  
Erin Stroud, Safety Codes Council

**REGRETS:** Zeljko Gnjatic  
Grant Peuramaki  
Terry Wiseman

**RECORDER:** Sandi Orr

**2015 MEETINGS:** Edmonton: Thursday, April 2 – Special meeting; Thursday, June 11 – Regular meeting; Thursday, August 27 – Regular meeting; Thursday, October 1 – Special meeting; Thursday, December 3 – Regular meeting

**A. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and housekeeping was provided for the new location.

**B. Introductions**

New member, Ward Wagner, was introduced and a round table introduction was held.

**C. Adoption of the Agenda**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- F.4.01.15 – Power Engineer Certificates Wording
- F.5.01.15 – Chairmanship – 2 year term
- F.6.01.14 – Gas Safety STANDATA Revision – G-03-11

**Marvin Kossowan / Mike Clancy moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED**

**D. Adoption of the Minutes**

**Izak Roux / Todd Loran moved to approve the minutes of November 28, 2014, as circulated; CARRIED**

**E. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**F.4.01.11 Apprenticeship and Industry Training and Pressure Welders Regulation Implementation**

It was reported that there haven't been any changes since the last meeting. The next working group meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2015. There will be a welding industry (AWOC) open house meeting in February

It was clarified that the tack welding practices have not changed since the regulation has been in force as there have been no applications made and therefore no individuals certified as tack welders. It was further noted that no fabricators have approached ABSA formally regarding changes to their quality control program to address certified tack welders. It was also clarified that the tack welder still has the right to remove or have a tack weld removed.

After an in depth discussion, it was suggested that industry is undergoing a learning process regarding tack welder certification.

**F.4.03.11 Municipal Affairs Legislation Process**

**a) SCA Review – Update**

The following was provided regarding the Act, codes and regulations:

- The amendments to the Safety Codes Act will be going to Cabinet sometime in the spring

- The Alberta Fire Code, Alberta Building Code and the Energy Codes will be going to Cabinet in March 2015
- The Electrical Code is anticipated to go to Cabinet in April or May

This led to a discussion regarding the legislative framework for ABSA's authority and an overview was provided regarding the administration agreement between the Minister and ABSA as a Delegated Administrative Organization. It was clarified that the authority for the Minister to make the delegation agreement with ABSA is through the Boilers Delegated Administration Regulation under the Government Organization Act, not the Safety Codes Act.

Concern was expressed regarding in-service inspectors that are employed as contractors by pressure equipment owners not having the liability protection afforded to Safety Codes Officers under the Safety Codes Act. Correspondence from the Contract Chief Inspectors Association was forwarded to the Director of Codes and Standards a while back and no response has been received. [Orr / Li]

#### **F.1.03.13 Expiry of Variance for Gas Fired Process Equipment**

It was reported that with Gas Safety Standata G-02-14 *Legacy Equipment Management Systems* in place and several applications received, this matter was considered closed. This item will be removed from the agenda. [Paches]

#### **F.6.02.14 Nominations / Appointment of an additional Vice Chair**

As there were no volunteers or nominations for the position of vice-chair, Brian Lade as outgoing chair volunteered to move into the Vice Chair in the interim, but still recommended that a Vice Chair should be sought amongst members within the first term. Further discussion was deferred until later in the meeting.

#### **F.1.03.14 Heritage Boilers Association of Alberta**

It was reported that the Power Engineer Working Group is continuing to examine the issue of boiler capacity limit for holders to the Special Steam-powered Traction Engine Operator's Certificate of Competency. According, this particular item will be removed from the agenda, but will continue to be tracked under the Power Engineer Working Group report. [Paches]

#### **F.2.04.14 Potential Amendment for Pressure Welders Regulation**

It was reported that this item is being reviewed by the Pressure Welders Working Group and will be removed from the agenda, but will continue to be tracked under the Pressure Welders Working Group report. [Paches]

#### **F.1.05.14 Stock Equipment Owners/Inspectors**

It was reported that the article is almost complete and will be ready for the March 2015 Pressure News. It was requested that the article be submitted to ABSA by the middle of February in order to be considered for inclusion for the March edition. [Loran]

## **F. New Business**

### **F.1.01.15 Reappointment of Brian Grantham to January 31, 2018**

**Mike Clancy / David Miller moved to recommend to the Coordinating Committee the reappointment of Brian Grantham to the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Technical Council for a term until January 31, 2018, effective February 1, 2015; CARRIED**

### **F.2.01.15 Boilers & Pressure Vessels Sub-Council Name Change**

During the Administrator and Chief Inspector's discussions with the Council regarding Designation of Powers, the topic was introduced regarding "pressure equipment" might be more appropriate instead of "boilers and pressure vessels". This is in consideration that the sub-councils scope of interest extends to pressure equipment beyond "boilers and pressure vessels" to include pressure piping and fittings, but also applies to the certification of people that construct, operate, inspect and maintain pressure equipment.

It was noted that any change to the sub-council's name would require a change in the Safety Codes Council bylaws. An overview was provided on the process to change the bylaws and sub-sequential changes that would affect Council policies. The sub-council members believed that this term would be more appropriate.

**Izak Roux / Jim Weiss moved to recommend to the Coordinating Committee that the Council bylaws be revised, through special resolution, to change the name of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels sub-council to the Pressure Equipment sub-council; CARRIED with no objection noted**

It was later reported that the Council was not considering any revisions to the bylaws at the upcoming 2015 Annual General Meeting.

### **F.3.01.15 Designation of Powers – Pressure Equipment SCOs – Policy 7.20**

Revisions to Safety Codes Council policy 7.20 (Handout #1) respecting designation of powers to safety codes officers in the boilers discipline was circulated. Revision was needed reflect the amendment to Section 40 of the Safety Codes Act to allow safety codes officers to register designs. The need for the second revision to more appropriately reference 56(1) instead of 55(1) with respect to carrying out orders was raised during the review of the Administration Agreement currently under review by Municipal Affairs and ABSA. It was noted that the safety codes officer discipline is also to be changed from "Boilers and Pressure Vessels Discipline" to "Pressure Equipment Discipline".

The sub-council made the following revision to Handout #1:

- Footnote <sup>1</sup> to be moved from "Employer of Safety Codes Officer" to the "Province" column

**John Wolff / Izak Roux moved to recommend to the Coordinating Committee the adoption of the redrafted Policy 7.20 – Designation of Powers, as revised; CARRIED**

#### **F.4.01.15 Power Engineer Certificate Wording**

Current and proposed certificate prototypes were circulated and reviewed (Handout #2). The changes to the wording are proposed to reflect current Power Engineer Regulation as well as more correctly define the authorized scope of practice. A brief discussion was held regarding the term "power engineer".

**David Miller / Mike Clancy moved to endorse revising the wording on the certificates for all classes of Power Engineer and to refer the matter to the Power Engineers Working Group for recommendations back to the sub-council; CARRIED with one noted objection – Dr. Magdi Ghobrial**

#### **F.5.01.15 Chairmanship – 2 year term**

It was noted that the Council bylaws require that Chairs be appointed for a two-year term. It was noted that no term was included in the motion to appoint Izak Roux as the Chair effective February 1, 2015, during the last meeting.

**Mike Clancy / John Valens moved that Izak Roux's appointment as sub-council Chair be for a two-year term, effective February 1, 2015; CARRIED**

The floor was opened for nominations to fill the now vacant Vice Chair position. Jim Weiss was nominated. Brian Lade was nominated. After three calls and no further nominations, nominations were closed and both individuals removed themselves from the meeting.

It was noted that during discussions at previous meetings, it was suggested that the sub-council have two vice chairs, with one of them being within their first term to allow for better succession planning.

**Dr. Magdi Ghobrial / David Miller moved to appoint two Vice Chairs for the sub-council; CARRIED**

*Jim Weiss and Brian Lade were appointed as Vice Chairs for the sub-council, by acclamation.*

#### **F.6.01.14 Gas Safety STANDATA Revision – G-03-11**

A redrafted Gas Safety Information Bulletin G-03-11-ABSA (Handout #3) was circulated and it was reported that the purpose of the revisions was to bring clarity of which code is to be used when installing piping in fuel gas service at owner-user facilities.

Overviews of the revisions were provided, based on work done by ABSA, the Administrator and Chief Inspector and the Chief Gas Administrator. The key point is that at an owner-user facility piping that carries gas that can be used as fuel will be deemed pressure piping under the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation up to the point where its pressure is reduced to 15 psi; or at the shut off valve to the fuel burning appliance when the pressure is greater than 15 psi.. It was clarified that the location of construction was not addressed, but rather the location of the installation.

It was suggested that the matrix included in the Gas Safety Bulletin concerning Field Approvals, Permits and Variances (ISBN 978-1-4601-2023-1) has data that may be

interpreted as self-contradictory. The Technical Advisor reported that permits are required when using the old STANDATA (GAS-VAR-05-05) that requires engineers to design it. A brief overview was also provided regarding accreditation and third-party certification.

A few examples were worked through to provide clarity. It was questioned regarding how much involvement the sub-council wished to have in further developing the revisions to G-03-11. It was suggested that the sub-council would prefer a relatively complete document and then have the opportunity to provide feedback and endorsement. It was suggested that clarification should be provided regarding "process gas" vs. "fuel gas". It was also questioned how hydrogen as a fuel would fit into this.

It was questioned whether there would be any external stakeholder consultation and noted that this was not originally planned.

The Administrator and Chief Inspector will incorporate the feedback and work with the Chief Gas Administrator on revisions to the STANDATA G-03-011 before bringing this back to the sub-councils for further review. [Poehlmann / Manning]

## **G. Standing Agenda Items**

### **(a) Pressure Welders Working Group**

The following working group report was provided:

- The Working Group hasn't met since the last meeting and there was nothing new to report
- A brief overview was provided of the short term issues to be discussed

The Technical Advisor was asked to obtain a report from the last AWOC town hall meeting. [Hantelmann]

### **(b) Power Engineers Working Group**

The following working group report was provided:

- The next meeting is scheduled for February 6
- A brief overview was provided of topics on the agenda

John Siggers will be asked to provide an update regarding the SOPEEC task group that is looking into developing a new model for power plant ratings for supervision by power engineers that could be considered for use by all jurisdictions. [Poehlmann / Siggers]

### **(c) PESR – Codes & Standards, Design Survey/Registration and New Equipment Inspection Working Group**

The following working group report was provided:

- The working group chair is compiling a list of conversations from the last Section VIII, Div 2 working group
- The changes to ASME Code will need to be reviewed
- It was reported that the two ASME pressure piping codes and the ASME boiler code should be adopted together

A brief discussion was held on the changes to the Safety Codes Act that would support more timely code adoption. The Director of Code Development – Mechanical will get clarification on the amendments and will bring this information back to the sub-council. [Li]

(d) PESR – In-Service Inspections, Repairs & Alterations and PEIM Working Group

It was reported that the next working group meeting will not likely be until March.

## H. Correspondence

The Chair reported that he had the opportunity to review ABSA's annual report and highlighted his observations:

- There were no major pressure equipment accidents involving fatalities or serious injuries in Alberta this year that were caused by the failure of the pressure boundary
- There was a reduction in both incident and unsafe conditions reported
- There were 36 industry incidents in 2014 with the most significant being a tube failure in a large process steam generator in a chemical plant that operated too long in a low water condition

Other statistics included:

- Fabrication activity – up 16% with 11,392 completion inspections
- Installation inspections at 4,179
- In-service Inspections now showing 211,042 vessels subject to annual registration fees
- ABSA's scope now 22,049 "non-process" equipment items, 20,138 "Process" but not under Owner-User Program and 19,161 In-service Inspections completed (about 45%)
- Owner-User Program covers 168,855 equipment items with more than 15,000 inspections reported
- 10,115 Design registrations, up 11%, with initial response time average of 26 days for rush and 30 days for non-rush
- Approximately 48% of design submissions require rework
- Total of 19,180 valid Power Engineering Certifications (1st through 5th) including 2,067 new certificates
- 1,571 B Pressure Tests, including 181 per new TIG roots
- 225 C Pressure Tests, down by 80%
- 348 valid Welding Examiner certifications including 23 new certificates
- 573 In-service Pressure Vessel inspectors and 339 Boilers and Pressure Vessels inspectors, including 144 new certificates
- Development of Plant Registry – plant ratings and minimum supervision requirements

## I. ABSA/Administrator Report

There were 8 incident notifications received in December. A worker is reported to have sustained second degree burns to the hands and face in a flash fire or explosion. The incident occurred while the worker was investigating the cause of a trouble alarm at the facility. A natural gas leak in a supply line to a heater is the suspected source of the fuel. Investigators from Workplace Health and Safety are investigating. ABSA Safety Codes Officers are monitoring and supporting the investigation. There were no injuries reported in the other seven incidents. Four of the seven incidents were related to freezing and ABSA

will be reinforcing previous warnings about freezing. The other incidents were: one compressor skid fire, one system overpressure that occurred while the equipment was shut in, and a vehicle incident in which a pressure equipment skid package being transported was struck by another vehicle.

Information Bulletins issued since last meeting:

- IB14-012 Revision to AB-506 Inspection and Servicing Requirements Document
- IB14- 013 Loss of Overpressure Protection on Fuel Gas Scrubbers
- IB14-014 Stolen Performance Qualification Cards
- IB15-001 Rescind Variance VA12-002 – Partial exemption of piping in certain service
- IB15-002 Interpretation Exemption of Methanol Tanks

### ***CSA Committee Report***

1. CSA-Z662 technical meeting to be held in February. The purpose is to address the more than 300 items on Z662 2015 edition ballot, which is scheduled for publication in June.

### ***Design Review Process***

1. Added a checklist to AB-31 (design registration application). Submitters are being asked to complete the checklist in order to verify they have submitted the items required for ABSA to review the design.
2. Developing streamlined processes
  - Closing files when people don't respond for a long time.
  - May turn down applications that are not complete.
  - Developing registration by "audit" processes for certain qualified submitters
  - Using a risk matrix and experience based judgment to expedite some designs.
3. This is having an impact as the inventory of work has been reduced over the past few months, from approximately 2,200 in September to less than 1,700 currently. Rate of submissions has been high, but registrations have been higher.

### ***ASME Boilers & Pressure Vessel Code Proposals***

- The development and voting on the technical items ended in December 2014, and the 2015 Edition of the BPV Codes will be issued in July 2015.
- The work on the technical items for the new (2017) edition of the Codes will start in January 2015 during the ASME Code Committee week. The meetings will define activities for the new code development cycle.
- Common rules – several letter ballots – some items are progressing well, some items will need further discussions (i.e. need for equivalent of U-2(g), should class one allow certain weld details from Div.1, proof testing,)
- ASME Openness principle - Next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2015. (Mention - recirculating letter ballot was in Jan. 2015 – two negatives). The current proposal is to move the text from the last paragraph in the FOREWARD section to the main part of the code. As a result of this letter ballot, (i) paragraph 4-1 may be revised to provide



requirements for Integrity and participation in the ASME process (Codes and Standards development); and (ii) new paragraph 4-7 is proposed to address reciprocity and openness principles

With regards to engineered pressure enclosures (leak boxes), ABSA convened two meetings with industry (Nov. 2014 and Jan 2015). It was discussed about the use of engineered pressure enclosures and how to streamline and enhancing the process. ABSA will continue to develop a document that will provide guidance for the use of engineered pressure enclosures.

#### **J. Technical Coordinating Committee Update**

There was nothing new to report since the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2015.

#### **K. Next Meeting**

The following meeting schedule was reconfirmed, all held in Edmonton, commencing at 9:00 a.m.:

- Friday, January 23 – Regular meeting
- Thursday, April 2 – Special meeting
- Thursday, June 11 – Regular meeting – \*\*\*New Date\*\*\*
- Thursday, August 27 – Regular meeting
- Thursday, October 1 – Special meeting
- Thursday, December 3 – Regular meeting

Prior to the end of the meeting, a discussion was held regarding pressure equipment under the definition of the Act and the regulatory gap that was closed years ago when thermal liquid heating systems were included as pressure equipment. It was noted that there is much confusion about the application of requirements under the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation for thermal liquid heating systems. ABSA is working on a guidance document. It was deemed that discussions of this nature should be held at the working group level.

Brian Lade was recognized and thanked for his years of service as the Sub-council Chair.

**Todd Loran / Marvin Kossowan moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

--- ACTION ITEMS ---

**F.4.03.11 Municipal Affairs Legislation Process**

**a) SCA Review – Update**

Concern was expressed regarding the potential liability for in-service inspectors not being covered under the Safety Codes Act. Correspondence from the Contract Chief Inspectors Association was forwarded to the Director of Codes and Standards a while back and no response has been received. [Orr / Li]

**F.1.03.13 Expiry of Variance for Gas Fired Process Equipment**

This item will be removed from the agenda. [Paches]

**F.1.03.14 Heritage Boilers Association of Alberta**

- will be removed from the agenda. [Paches]

**F.2.04.14 Potential Amendment for Pressure Welders Regulation**

- will be removed from the agenda. [Paches]

**F.1.05.14 Stock Equipment Owners/Inspectors**

It was requested that the article be submitted to ABSA by the middle of February. [Loran]

**F.6.01.14 Gas Safety STANDATA Revision – G-03-11**

The Administrator and Chief Inspector will incorporate the feedback and work with the Chief Gas Administrator on revisions to the STANDATA before bringing this back to the sub-councils for further review. [Poehlmann / Manning]

**G. Standing Agenda Items**

(a) Pressure Welders Working Group

The Technical Advisor was asked to obtain a report from the last AWOC town hall meeting. [Hantelmann]

(b) Power Engineers Working Group

John Siggers will be asked to provide an update regarding NPSAC. [Poehlmann / Siggers]

(c) PESR – Codes & Standards, Design Survey/Registration and New Equipment Inspection Working Group

The Director of Code Development – Mechanical will get clarification on the amendments and will bring this information back to the sub-council. [Li]

--- M O T I O N S ---

**C. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Marvin Kossowan / Mike Clancy moved to adopt the agenda, as amended; CARRIED**

**D. Adoption of the Minutes**

**Izak Roux / Todd Loran moved to approve the minutes of November 28, 2014, as circulated; CARRIED**

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**F.5.01.15 Chairmanship – 2 year term**

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**Dr. Magdi Ghobrial / David Miller moved to appoint two Vice Chairs for the sub-council; CARRIED**

***Jim Weiss and Brian Lade were appointed as Vice Chairs for the sub-council, by acclamation.***

**K. Next Meeting**

**Todd Loran / Marvin Kossowan moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED**