the Mark

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www.asme.org/codes

Welcome to the first issue of ASME's Conformity Assessment Newsletter.

One overriding theme in the comments we received from our most recent customer satisfaction survey was that it was important for us to establish a better communication link with our Certificate Holders. This newsletter is one means of fulfilling that request by periodically reporting to you on ASME activities that affect you and your industry.

Our current plans are to publish this newsletter twice a year, but we will supplement that when there is information that we feel is important for you to know. Also, I expect that not too long from now, a significant majority of our Certificate Holders will have adequate Internet access, and that medium will become our primary means of communication.

Regardless of what form this communication takes, we welcome your comments and look forward to hearing from you on how we can be of the best service to you in the future.

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ASME International

The European Pressure Equipment Directive

As of May 29, 2002, all pressure equipment to be put into service in the European Union must comply with the Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) and carry the CE mark.

The Pressure Equipment Directive is a result of the creation of the European Union (EU) and its constituents who needed to create a means to foster free and open trade among all members. Until the creation of the PED, movement of pressure equipment products within the European market had been difficult because of the differing regulations from one country to the next. The PED will enable the CE mark to be applied to pressure equipment that meets the Directive, ensuring acceptance in all the member states of the EU.

The scope of the PED includes pressure vessels, boilers, heat exchangers, piping, safety accessories, pressure accessories, and assemblies. The process of assuring the safety of the vessels designed under the PED is simply described in three steps. The first is to describe the hazard category as defined by the standard. Then, the manufacturer must satisfy several Essential Safety Requirements (ESRs). These ESRs are minimum standards for the design, manufacture, and testing of pressure equipment, which are considered to be essential for safety reasons. The final stage in the approval process is conformity assessment. Manufacturers will usually be given the choice between a quality assurance module, or one in which a Notified Body approves the process.

Currently, there are several hundred manufacturers in Europe who hold ASME Certificates of Authorization to apply the ASME mark to their products. Because of the complexities of pressure equipment regulations in Europe most of the ASME stamped items are built for export to countries outside of Europe. The creation of the PED, and the process of implementing it equally in all member states, creates an opportunity for manufacturers to use the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (the Code) as the basis for compliance with the PED and affixing the CE mark.

The creation of the PED, and the process of implementing it equally in all member states, creates an opportunity for manufacturers to use the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code as the basis for compliance.

ASME is working in several areas to make that choice easier. First, the most commonly used materials from the Code are being submitted for approval under the PED. The ASME Committees are also open to requests for adoption of any material specifica-

tion, regardless of country of origin, and have already approved several for use in both Sections I and VIII. Second, there is a project in the Pressure Vessel Research Council (PVRC) to develop a special Annex for Section VIII, similar to the 'Annex Z' developed for CEN standards. This Annex will outline how each of the ESRs of the PED are addressed by Section VIII, Division 1, Rules for Construction of Pressure Vessels. It will also include steps required by the PED that are not covered by Section VIII, enabling a manufacturer to build and stamp a vessel in accordance with the Code and also stamp it with the CE mark. Finally, ASME is conducting a series of seminars both in the US and in Europe on the subject of ASME Code Compliance and the PED. ASME Certificate holders who attend these seminars can hear how ASME's activities regarding the PED are progressing and can provide their input on how ASME can better facilitate the use of the Code for PED compliance.

On another front, the ASME B31.3 Process Piping Code has become the focus of an industry driven effort in the ISO standards development process. Throughout the world the petroleum industry uses B31.3 as the design code for plant piping systems. The industry wants to avoid costly retooling to comply with newly developed standards while introducing an international standard for piping systems that also complies with local regulations such as the PED. An ISO committee has initiated a project that has resulted in working draft ISO/WD 15649 - Piping Systems for Petroleum and Natural Gas Industries. The WD includes a normative reference to B31.3 for design and installation of piping systems in process plants, and also addresses some of the ESRs from the PED that are appropriate for international use. Once the ISO standard is published, a CEN committee is expected to introduce a EuroNorm (EN) that will reference the ISO standard, and close the loop on PED compliance.

The creation of the PED will undoubtedly change the climate for acceptance of pressure equipment in Europe. ASME is taking all possible actions to enable manufacturers to consider the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code as a means of satisfying the ESRs of the PED. ■

If you would like to take part in any of our efforts, or simply want more information, please contact Mark Sheehan, Director, Pressure Technology;
Tel: 212-591-8530;
Fax: 212-591-8501;
E-mail: sheehanm@asme.org.

ASME & ISO 9000 – Combine and Save

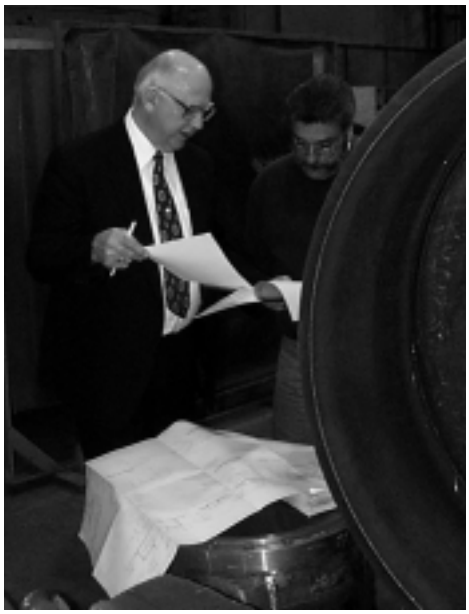
Since ASME is an accredited ISO 9000 Registrar we are able to offer our Certificate Holders a cost savings opportunity.

By combining an ISO 9000 assessment with an upcoming Boiler and Pressure Vessel shop review, or any other ASME Accreditation activity, your firm will be able to minimize third party quality system certification costs.

ASME can arrange to conduct the joint review so that the ISO assessment and the BPV shop review is lead by the same ASME Team Leader. Recently, the Atlas Industrial Manufacturing Company of Clifton, New Jersey opted to conduct a renewal of an ASME ISO 9000 Registration assessment combined with a Boiler and Pressure Vessel shop review. Besides the operational efficiencies gained by utilizing one reviewer for both reviews, Atlas Vice President Ramsey Mahadeen favored the reduced down time and minimization of auditor expenses.

Mahadeen said: "The management of Atlas Industrial Manufacturing Company decided to contract the services of ASME to combine its ASME Section VIII, review and its ISO 9001 assessment. The time that was required for our staff to participate in one extended review/assessment was more productive than having them dedicate their time to two separate reviews. In addition, since ASME has the most international expertise in pressure vessels, their personnel have the experience to audit quality systems to be used for the construction of heat exchangers."

Furthermore, the Atlas vice president stated, "the ability of ASME to coordinate and conduct the review/assessment at the same time as the National Board 'R' review was also beneficial in maximizing the use of our staff time. The combined ASME and National Board review ensured that our one quality assurance system was consistent with the requirements of ISO 9001, ASME Section VIII, and the NBIC."■



ASME auditor, Harry Jackson, and Atlas QC Inspector review the product checklist and traveler (quality plan).

Updated Review Process Reflects International Code Use

Emily M. Smith
ASME News

ASME's Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee is creating a third arm of review to give the current code-writing process a broader, global flavor that reflects the international recognition of ASME's Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code.

The new International Interest Review Committee (IIRC) will consist of representatives from agencies in countries that use the code to meet regulatory requirements.

The formation of the International Interests Committee augments the current review process used for the Boiler Code. Since the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee was formed in 1911, it has been made up of representatives from government, manufacturers, the public and users. From its start, open communication and public participation have also contributed to the process.

In 1916, the Conference Committee was formed to give representatives of the U.S. states that had adopted the Boiler Code as a legal requirement the chance to contribute to writing the codes that they enforced.

In the years since, the Conference Committee was expanded to include representatives of Canadian provinces. Another conference group representing steamship regulators was formed later.

Agencies that accept the Boiler Code will be invited to nominate a representative to serve on the IIRC. When the nominee is officially appointed, that person may participate in the regular meeting of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee, submit comments on proposals during the ballot period or public review period and receive complimentary copies of the Code Sections that their agencies have adopted.

Agencies wishing to make a nomination should provide the following material: a copy of the portion of the regulations covering boiler or pressure vessel safety; a copy of the designation of the agency as the enforcement body for that portion of regulations; evidence that the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code is accepted as a means of meeting that portion of the regulations; and a letter from the head of the agency giving the name, mailing address and qualifications of the person employed by the agency and nominated to serve on the IIRC.

That information should be sent to The Secretary, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Committee, ASME International, Three Park Ave., New York, NY 10016-5990. ■

Using Code Symbols in Advertising

While some companies may have become ASME Certificate Holders because it is required by regulation or because their customers demand it, many others have done so primarily for the marketing advantage it brings. With this in mind, ASME has always permitted companies to advertise their accreditation status and to use the Code Symbols in advertising.

Organizations that are authorized to use Code Symbols for marking items which have been constructed and inspected in compliance with an ASME code and standard are issued Certificates of Authorization.
It is the aim of the Society to maintain the integrity of the Code Symbols for the benefit of the users, the enforcement jurisdictions, as well as the Certificate Holders. Based on this objective, a policy has been established on the usage in advertising of facsimiles of the symbols, Certificates of Authorization, and reference to Code construction. Since ASME does not "approve," "certify," "rate," or "endorse" any product or service, companies are not permitted to make statements or implications which might so indicate. An organization holding a Certificate of Authorization may, however, state in advertising literature that products "are built (produced or performed) or activities conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code," or "meet the requirements of the Code."

Facsimiles of the Code Symbols may be used in advertising to show that clearly specified items will carry the symbol. General usage is permitted only when all of a manufacturer's items are constructed under the rules. Also keep in mind that the ASME logo, which is the cloverleaf with the letters ASME within, is not permitted to be used by any organization other than ASME.

The policy is somewhat different for the ASME 9000 symbol for companies registered under ASME's ISO 9000 program. This mark is not permitted to be used on products since it signifies certification of a company's quality system, not any product or service. It may be used in advertising or even on a company's letterhead provided that it accurately represents the scope for which registration has been granted by ASME.

Recently, many companies have inquired about the use of the Code Symbols on their web pages, and generally all of the rules regarding their use in advertising apply here. Bitmapped copies of the Symbols can be downloaded from ASME's website (www.asme.org/codes) or by e-mailing *accreditation@asme.org.*

ASME CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAMS

Board on Conformity Assessment – Alan Bagner, 1-212-591-8580, bagnera@asme.org

ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS

AIA Qualification of Authorized Inspection Agencies, nuclear and non-nuclear, based on the ASME QAI-1 Standard (formerly N626.1)
Bibi Rahim, 1-212-591-8465, rahimb@asme.org & Ken Baron, 1-212-591-7019, baronk@asme.org

FAP Fastener manufacturers, distributors, and laboratories
Bibi Rahim, 1-212-591-8465, rahimb@asme.org & Felicia Zusman, 1-212-591-8586, zusmanf@asme.org

BPV Boiler and Pressure Vessels
Ron Berberich, 1-212-591-8461, berberichr@asme.org & Ken Baron, 1-212-591-7019, baronk@asme.org

N-type Nuclear component manufacturers and assemblers (vessels, tanks, pressure piping, and pressure relief devices)
Bibi Rahim, 1-212-591-8465, rahimb@asme.org & Felicia Zusman, 1-212-591-8586, zusmanf@asme.org

PRD Pressure relief device testing laboratories and authorized observers
Ron Berberich, 1-212-591-8461, berberichr@asme.org & Ken Baron, 1-212-591-7019, baronk@asme.org

QEI Elevator Inspector certifying organizations
Bibi Rahim, 1-212-591-8465, rahimb@asme.org & Felicia Zusman, 1-212-591-8586, zusmanf@asme.org

QSC Nuclear material organization (material manufacturers and suppliers)
Bibi Rahim, 1-212-591-8465, rahimb@asme.org & Felicia Zusman, 1-212-591-8586, zusmanf@asme.org

RTP Manufacturers of reinforced thermoset plastic corrosion resistant vessels
Bibi Rahim, 1-212-591-8465, rahimb@asme.org & Felicia Zusman, 1-212-591-8586, zusmanf@asme.org

REGISTRATION PROGRAM

ISO Registration of suppliers of mechanical equipment and related materials, items, and services in the industries and sectors associated with the art, science, and practice of mechanical engineering
Christine Bujal, 1-212-591-8592, bujalc@asme.org & Ken Baron, 1-212-591-7019, baronk@asme.org

To receive an ISO 9000 proposal contact:
Raj Manchanda, 1-212-591-8033,
Fax 1-212-591-8599
E-mail: accreditation@asme.org

CERTIFICATION OF PERSONNEL

QHO Operators of hazardous waste incinerators
Sandra Bridgers, 1-212-591-8465, bridgerss@asme.org & Felicia Zusman, 1-212-591-8586, zusmanf@asme.org

QMO Operators of medical waste incinerators (MWIs)
Sandra Bridgers, 1-212-591-8465, bridgerss@asme.org & John Millman, 1-212-591-8584, millmanj@asme.org

QRO Operators of resource recovery facilities processing municipal solid waste (MWCs)
Sandra Bridgers, 1-212-591-8465, bridgerss@asme.org & John Millman, 1-212-591-8584, millmanj@asme.org

QFO Operators of high capacity fossil fuel fired plants
Sandra Bridgers, 1-212-591-8465, bridgerss@asme.org & John Millman, 1-212-591-8584, millmanj@asme.org

Y14 Geometric dimensioning and tolerancing professionals (GDTP)
Sandra Bridgers, 1-212-591-8465, bridgerss@asme.org & John Millman, 1-212-591-8584, millmanj@asme.org

ASME International

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