

The Importance of International Participation In ASME Codes and Standards Development

ASME International develops over 600 codes and standards, many of which have become widely used all around the world. In cases such as the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, their use is so common internationally that they have been designated as international standards. Conformance to their requirements serves as means to meet many international regulations. The concepts that define which standards can be considered international also define why it is important for ASME to encourage participation by individuals from around the world in its standards development process.

A recent World Trade Organization (WTO) document (G/TBT/1/Rev. 8, Issued May 23, 2002) contains the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) decision on principles for development of international standards.

The document includes the following statement: "In order to improve the quality of international standards and to ensure the effective application of the (TBT) Agreement, the Committee agreed that there was a need to develop principles concerning transparency, openness, impartiality and consensus, relevance and effectiveness, coherence and developing country interests that would clarify and strengthen the concept of international standards under

the Agreement and contribute to the advancement of its objectives."

It is important to note that the Committee on TBT has intentionally not limited development of international standards to any specific organization, such as ISO or IEC. Standards that are relevant to international markets and are developed using the elements described in the Committee's statement are international standards, regardless of the standards' developer. ASME International supports this position, which mirrors the process by which all ASME codes and standards are developed, and used internationally.

ASME's process for developing codes and standards includes the elements contained in the Committee on TBT's statement. The ASME process is open to all interested parties. It provides due process for objecting opinions and it includes full public review of all proposed standards. Standards are approved when consensus is achieved among all affected interest groups, none of which can have a majority membership on the standards committee, so that impartiality is achieved.

Market relevance, effectiveness and coherence of ASME codes and standards are demonstrated by the large number of products manufactured to ASME standards around the world, both for domestic use and for import/export trade. ASME Codes and Standards committees currently have

some members from interests located outside the USA, but this is an area that must be improved in order to strengthen the contributions from interests in countries that use ASME codes and standards. This is an area where ASME's certificate holders can be of great assistance.

International organizations that are accredited by ASME are encouraged to join in the codes and standards development process. In the past, attendance at meetings has been considered essential to committee participation, but with recent advancements in electronic tools used by ASME, it is no longer necessary to be physically present at meetings to participate in the development of codes and standards. This is a great opportunity for ASME certificate holders and their respective engineers to contribute to the development of the standards and to ensure those standards provide international market relevance.

For more information on participating in ASME International's codes and standards development, contact William Nothofer, Promotion Manager, ASME International, Three Park Avenue, New York, NY, USA 10016-5990, Tel: 212-591-8033, Fax: 212-591-7196, or Email: nothoferw@asme.org.

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Back by Popular Demand... FAQs for Boiler and Pressure Vessel Accreditation

NAME CHANGES

Question 1

My company's name was recently changed. How do I go about changing the name on my Certificate of Authorization?

Reply:

To change your company name (including a change in ownership), you must do the following:

1. Inform ASME of the new company name in writing (on letterhead showing the new name); ASME will then contact the certificate holder's AIA and request a written verification that: (a) The AIA has an inspection agreement with the certificate holder under the new company name; (b) The AIA has conducted an audit of the certificate holder's Quality Control Manual and Program and has verified that the manual has been revised to reflect the new name; (c) The AIA verifies that no substantial changes have occurred in upper management or QC personnel affecting the certificate holder's Quality Control Program.

2. Write a statement indicating that your company accepts responsibility for all Code work performed under the Certificate of Authorization prior to the name change. (If you refuse to accept this responsibility a full ASME review will be required and a new Certificate of Authorization will be issued upon successful completion of the review). You will be issued the revised certificate after ASME receives the written verification letter from your AIA and the statement of acceptance of responsibility from you. The certificate revision fee is currently \$150.00 per certificate.

Note:

Where the Certificates of Authorization are V, HV, UV, UV3 and UD, which involve an ASME Designated Organization, ASME requires a letter from the Designated Organization providing written verification of the following:

1. The certificate holder's Quality Control Manual has been revised to reflect the new name; and
2. No substantial

changes have occurred in upper management or QC personnel affecting the certificate holder's Quality Control Program.

The certificate holder will also be required to provide ASME with a written statement indicating that it accepts responsibility for all Code work performed under the Certificate of Authorization prior to the name change. If the certificate holder refuses to accept this responsibility, a full ASME review will be required and a new Certificate of Authorization will be issued upon successful completion of the review.

Upon receipt of the written verification letter from the ASME Designated Organization, acceptance of responsibility by the certificate holder, and payment of a certificate revision fee (currently \$150.00 per certificate), a revised Certificate of Authorization will be issued showing the new company name.

Where the Certificate of Authorization is H (Cast Iron), which involves an ASME Designee, the Designee must provide ASME with written verification that:

1. The certificate holder's Quality Control Manual has been revised to reflect the name change; and
2. No substantial changes have occurred in upper management or QC personnel affecting the certificate holder's Quality Control Program.

The certificate holder will also be required to provide ASME with a written statement indicating that it accepts responsibility for all Code work performed under the Certificate of Authorization prior to the name change. If the certificate holder refuses to accept this responsibility, a full ASME review will be required and a new Certificate of Authorization will be issued upon successful completion of the review.

Upon receipt of the written verification letter from the ASME Designee, acceptance of responsibility by the certificate holder and payment of a certificate revision fee (currently \$150.00 per certificate), a revised Certificate of Authorization will be issued showing the new name.

ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES "A", "PP" AND "UM" WITHOUT ASME REVIEW

Question 2

I recently received an ASME "S" Certificate of Authorization. At the time of the review I did not apply for additional certificates. I would now like to apply for "A" and "PP" Certificates. Do I need to have another ASME review?

Reply

A full ASME review is not required. However, ASME does require that both the ASME team leader who conducted the review for "S" accreditation, and the AIA who participated in the review, verify in writing that your Quality Control Manual and QC System have been revised to include all additional Code requirements to fabricate components for the requested certificate. When ASME receives both verifications, it will issue your certificates and stamps (upon receipt of payment of applicable fees).

Question 3

I recently received an ASME "U" Certificate of Authorization. At the time of the review I did not apply for additional Certification. I would now like to apply for a "UM" Certificate. Do I need to have another ASME review?

Reply

A full ASME review is not required for a holder of an ASME "U" Certificate who applies for a "UM" Certificate. ASME will require written verification from both the ASME Team Leader, who conducted the latest review for "U" accreditation and the Certificate Holder's AIA, who participated in the review, that the Certificate Holder's Quality Control Manual and QC System have been revised to include all additional Code requirements required to fabricate components for the requested Certificate.

Upon receipt of a favorable recommendation from both the ASME Team Leader and the company AIA, ASME will issue the requested Certificate and stamp upon receipt of payment of applicable fees by the Certificate Holder.

ASME Response to Article from May 2002 Edition of EOTC Conformity Assessment News

An article entitled "Pressure Vessels: New EU Standard Set to Revolutionize Old Industry Sector" was published on the European Organization for Conformity Assessment (EOTC) website in the May 2002 edition of *Conformity Assessment News*. The entire piece can be viewed on the Web at: www.eotc.be/News/ (Click on "Past Issues.")

The first paragraph of the article states "Stakeholders across Europe and beyond are gearing up for the entry into force of the pressure equipment directive (PED). From 29 May 2002, the new regulatory approach that it embodies will replace national rules on products from pressure cookers to non-nuclear power stations with safety rules that focus not on products, but on hazards, defined and managed in terms of permitted pressure."

The date for full implementation of the European Union Directive 97/23/EC on pressure equipment was 29 May 2002. Therefore pressure equipment imported into the EU must meet the PED beginning with that date.

The article goes on to describe the new European Standard for pressure equipment on unfired pressure vessels, EN 13445, as a means of meeting the PED. However, manufacturers should bear in mind that EN 13445 is one means of satisfying the PED, but it is not the sole means. Other pressure vessel standards, including those of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, may also be used to satisfy the PED.

Further on, the article states that designers are coming to grips with a new "Design by Analysis" concept and compares several features of EN 13445 to the ASME Code for pressure vessels. ASME feels some of the points raised in this article may be misleading and need further clarification. These items are detailed below.

The first point has to do with the statement that "Designers are coming to

grips with a new 'Design by Analysis' concept..." In 1955, ASME appointed a special committee to review code stress basis. One of the tasks undertaken by this committee was the development of a code section covering nuclear power plants. In 1963, ASME published Section III of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code which included design requirements for nuclear power plants. This 1963 edition incorporated design by analysis. In 1968 ASME published Section VIII, Division 2: Alternative Rules for Pressure Vessels. This new code section also included design by analysis. ASME first introduced design by analysis into the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code almost forty years ago.

The second point is an implication that the ASME Code "... relies on low-quality steel grades that produce more expensive (and hence less competitive) pressure vessels." The European materials are, to a great extent, identical to the ASME/ASTM specifications. If the material specification were not identified on the product form, one would find it essentially impossible to differentiate between a material produced to a European specification and its ASME/ASTM equivalent. This is true for most of the carbon and chromium-molybdenum steels that are the work-horse materials for pressure vessels and boilers.

The ASME/ASTM specifications have mandatory requirements that assure the material is of the highest quality. A high percentage of the materials supplied to the ASME/ASTM specifications are manufactured in the same mills that supply materials to EN specifications. Further, many ASME/ASTM material specifications were submitted to the EU for acceptance through the EMA process and rejected on the basis that they were similar or identical to existing EN specifications.

The third point is the cost of standards. The article states: "EN 13445 will cost

583 euros against approximately USD 3,500 for the corresponding ASME standard." However, the cost of three divisions of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code that covers pressure vessels are USD 410 for Section VIII, Division 1 (Pressure Vessels), USD 405 for Section VIII, Division 2 (Alternative Rules for Pressure Vessels) and USD 340 for Division 3 (Alternative Rules for Construction of High Pressure Vessels).

The secretary of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Standards Committee, Joseph Brzuszkiewicz, sent an email to the EOTC website bringing these points to their attention. A copy of the email was included in the August edition of *Conformity Assessment News* in the Reader Feedback section.

ASME has not received a response to its request to learn what comparison was done and what data was used to support the statement: "Australia and other countries are showing serious interest in this 'European model' standard as a possible alternative to the US one, which relies on low-quality steel grades that produce more expensive (and hence less competitive) pressure vessels."

The bottom line is the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code is recognized as an international standard and can be used as a means of satisfying the PED. According to British Standards Institute's (BSI) *Boilers and Pressure Vessels – an International Survey of Design and Approval Requirements*, more than 70 countries around the world accept the ASME Code in whole or in part as a means of satisfying their boiler and pressure vessel regulations. The ASME Code is the most accepted boiler and pressure vessel technical standard in the world. More than 900 volunteer experts, scientists and interested parties strive to maintain its international reputation.

ASNT Addresses the European PED and General Industry Sector Requirements for the Qualification and Certification of NDT Personnel

In June of this year, the American Society for Nondestructive Testing, Inc. (ASNT) Board of Directors approved The ASNT Central Certification Program™ Transitioning Plan calling for an initial period of granting qualified and eligible applicants ASNT Central Certification Program™ Level II or Professional Level III certification without further examination. This plan provides a period of certification without examination for the boiler and pressure vessel industry and for general industry. The transition process, sometimes referred to as grandfathering, is available from October 1, 2002 until September 30, 2003. The plan is intended to allow ASNT to satisfy an immediate market need and foster its mission by populating the NDT workforce with their "next generation" program.

The ASNT Central Certification Program™ satisfies the ASME Code requirements to have NDT personnel certified in accordance with Recommended Practice SNT-TC-1A and CP-189. The European Union's Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) which became effective in May of this year directly impacts NDT personnel qualification and certification. The PED specifies that all NDT personnel working on pressure equipment must be approved by a recognized third party organization from a European Union member country. Now, manufacturers and their NDT inspectors who had been complying with the ASME Code are subject to review and approval by a recognized third party organization to comply with the PED for the European Union countries.

Since the ASNT Central Certification Program™ is a third party certification and can satisfy the requirements for the European Union's EN 473 certificate,

ASNT has been working with RWTUV, a German notified body and recognized third party organization, to structure an agreement whereby personnel with the ASNT Central Certification Program™ credentials in the Pressure Equipment sector could apply to receive EN 473 credentials. With the ASNT Central Certification Program™ and EN 473 credentials, NDT personnel could meet both ASME and PED certification requirements.

In addition, ASNT has developed the General Industry sector to meet the needs of NDT suppliers who have to comply with multiple codes and specifications in more than a single industry. This sector provides a medium for central certification for those NDT practitioners desiring to upgrade in magnetic particle, radiographic testing, visual testing, liquid penetrant or ultrasonic testing. As the second area for inclusion in the Transition Plan, a venue is provided for independent test labs and consulting firms working in many industries to enhance marketability of their companies and their personnel. With certification that crosses industry and geographic boundaries, companies are better positioned to address the global economy, providing them with an opportunity rather than a barrier.

Transitioning is intended as a means for ASNT to proliferate a certification program created to enhance the integrity and upgrade the qualifications of NDT personnel. The ASNT Central Certification Program™ Transitioning Plan focuses on ASNT NDT Level IIIs and SNT-TC-1A Level IIs. While transition is without further examination, it is stringent regarding each applicant's compliance with eligibility requirements, experience and training criteria.

For applications or additional information, go to www.asnt.org, the ASNT

Website, and click on, "Make the Transition" or contact ASNT Technical Services Department at 1-614-274-6003 or 1-800-222-2768 U.S./Canada with specific questions.

Contact: Betsy J. Blazar, senior manager, Marketing & Membership, ASNT, 800-222-2768, ext. 211; Email: bblazar@asnt.org

ASME Digital Store

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PED Guidance Document

The Guidance Document on using Section VIII, Division 1 of the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, to meet the essential safety requirements of the European Pressure Equipment Directive (PED) will soon be available. Check the ASME Website for details (www.asme.org/codes).

Workshop for the Americas on the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code

ASME International and the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) hosted a workshop on the ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code for 22 engineers, regulators and standards developers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela. The workshop was held in Hollywood, Florida, September 8–12, in conjunction with ASME International's Boiler Code Week. The focus of the activity was to foster an understanding of the ASME Code in Latin American countries. A further benefit was to encourage a dialog to promote the use of the Code as a means of meeting the pressure equipment regulations in Latin America.

ASME International committee volunteers involved in the activities of Boiler Code Week took time out from their schedules to make presentations and serve on panel sessions aimed to increase the understanding of both the technical and administrative aspects of the Code. Topics included:

- A History of the Code
- An Overview of the Consensus Process
- Role of Other Standards Developing Organizations in Developing Code Requirements
- Jurisdictional Issues
- Role of Third Party Inspection
- ASME Accreditation and Manufacturer Certification
- Post Construction Issues

The contingent from Latin America was actively engaged in the workshop and reported on the current state of pressure equipment regulations in their countries. At the end of the workshop they provided observations that will form the basis for initiatives to be taken by ASME International to foster increased use of the Code and directly involve these countries in both the ASME International and ISO standards processes.

The reports from the invited countries revealed the following:

Accreditation and Certification

Activities – A majority of the invited countries reported their pressure equipment regulations allow the use of internationally recognized pressure vessel codes to meet these regulations. Brazil reported that as many as 90 per cent of the vessels imported in that country bear the ASME Code Symbol Stamp.

Harmonization of Pressure Equipment

Regulations – Several countries expressed an interest in expanding the role of the regional standards body to include coordination of the region's pressure equipment regulations. Several of the Latin American participants noted Section VIII, Division 2 of the Code calls for the User's Design Specification to be signed by a Registered Professional Engineer (RPE). There is no registration process for engineers in Latin America and they requested ASME consider alternatives to this requirement.

View of the ASME Committee Process

The workshop participants attended portions of two committee meetings. The Latin American participants found the meetings informative since they were able to see the process in action. They made the following observations in their final report: (1) the members serving on the committees represent a range of different viewpoints (manufacturers, petrochemical companies, insurance agencies, regulators), and (2) the committees' volunteers received no compensation from ASME for their time or expenses.

The workshop also provided ASME with the opportunity to continue the work of establishing a constructive dialog with Latin American countries on pressure equipment regulation. Some of the more important initiatives include:

Training – The participants expressed the need for increased training in the use of the Code. ASME International has identified people in Latin America who can act as authorized instructors for ASME sponsored courses. There is a need to advertise this and put the

instructors in contact with companies and individuals needing training.

ISO Technical Committees – Several of the Latin American countries participate in the ISO process as Observers. ASME International and other stakeholders (AWS, ASNT) need to bring them and the rest of these nations up to speed in the work of the ISO technical committees on boilers and pressure vessels, welding and nondestructive examination. Countries in this region need to be encouraged to become full participating members in the ISO process. All participants were asked to work with industry and their ISO member bodies to bring their interests to this activity.

Risk-Based Inspection Planning – The invited countries are interested in the efforts of ASME and API in inspection planning activities. They noted that the National Board Inspection Code (NBIC) is based solely on a time interval for planning future inspections and this may not fit the needs of all industries. Many of the participants are involved in the petrochemical industry where risk-based inspection planning is the norm. They are interested in any forthcoming standards in this area.

International Interest Review Group

(IIRG) – There were some participants directly involved in government regulation of pressure equipment and others who had contacts with them. ASME International will follow-up on these leads to recruit new members for the IIRG.

Conference Groups

– ASME International needs to establish groups (perhaps web-based) to discuss Code issues in Latin America and use formal contacts to bring important issues to the attention of the Committee. These groups may serve as a way of identifying people who may wish to serve on committees as corresponding members.

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WORK-IN-PROGRESS EXTENSION

Question 4

I do not intend to renew my ASME Certificate of Authorization. However, I have a job in shop that I will not be able to complete prior to the expiration date on my Certificate(s) of Authorization. Can I request an extension from ASME to complete the work?

Reply

The Certificate Holder will need to send a letter to ASME at least 30 days prior to the expiration date on the Certificate of Authorization they wish to have extended requesting extension of the Certificate to complete an ongoing job. The request from the Certificate Holder should include the following information and be accompanied by the applicable fee (currently \$950.00 per Certificate extension): Description of the work to be completed, including work/job number, the number and type ("S", "PP", "H", "U", etc.) of Code components involved and the expected completion date for the work. ASME will contact the Certificate Holder's AIA or ASME Designee, as appropriate, and request:

1. Written verification of the information provided by the Certificate Holder; and

2. Verification that an audit of the Certificate Holder's shop facility has recently been performed and the AIA/Designee is satisfied that the Certificate Holder's Quality Control Program is still in place and that they can fabricate Code components in compliance with the applicable requirements in the ASME Code. Upon receipt of a satisfactory report from the AIA/ASME Designee and payment of the applicable fees ASME will issue a Work-In-Progress Extension for a period of up to six months or until completion of the specified job, whichever occurs first. No further extensions will be granted and no additional or new work can be started after the original expiration date shown on the Certificate(s) of Authorization.

RE-ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE NUMBER

Question 5

I did not submit my application for renewal of my Certificate of Authorization to ASME on time. The renewal review was held after the expiration date on my Certificate of Authorization and I would like to keep my old Certificate number due to the low number on the Certificate and for advertising purposes. What should I do?

Reply

It is ASME policy to assign new Certificate numbers under the following situations:

1. On the issuance of a Certificate of Authorization for the first time; and
2. When a current Certificate Holder's Certificate of Authorization has expired prior to the date the renewal review was held and no request for an extension was received by ASME. However, the Certificate Holder may submit a written request to ASME stating the reason they wish to have their expired Certificate number reinstated, and the reason for the late submittal of their application for renewal of their Certificate.

ASME will grant the request provided:

1. The lapse in accreditation from the expiration date on the Certificate of Authorization to the date of issuance or new ASME accreditation has not exceeded three months; or
2. The review was conducted within the three month period but ASME was unable to process the Review Team recommendation within the three month period.