

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
Division of Occupational Safety & Health
Pressure Vessel Unit
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Circular Letter PV-2006-2

Effective Date October 1, 2006

Subject: Repairs and Alterations to Boilers and Pressure Vessels (Note: Replaces Circular Letters PV-98-1, PV-87-1 and PV-88-3)

To: All Parties Involved in the Repair and Alteration of Boilers and Pressure Vessels in Places of Employment

The State of California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Division) exercises jurisdiction over and administers regulations for the design, construction, use, maintenance, repair and alteration of boilers and pressure vessels in California in order to provide a safe workplace for employees.

It is the intent of this circular letter to explain the Division's policy concerning who may repair, alter, and inspect boilers and pressure vessels in order to be in compliance with the Labor Code and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8. Additional regulations for the petroleum refining and production industry as covered by CCR Title 8 Subchapters 14 & 15 will be noted as required. This letter is not intended to provide details on how repairs and alterations are to be completed.

Repairs and Alterations

All repairs and alterations to boilers, boiler piping and pressure vessels shall be done in accordance with the current issue of the National Board Inspection Code (NBIC).

Employers subject to CCR Title 8 Subchapters 14 & 15 requirements shall repair boilers and pressure vessels in accordance with either the 2004 Edition of the NBIC or American Petroleum Industry (API) 510 Pressure Vessel Inspection Code, Eighth Edition, June 1997, August 2003 Addendum. The API 510 Code shall not be used to repair boilers and pressure vessels as follows:

1. Boilers and fired pressure vessels as defined in CCR Title 8 Subchapter 2.
2. Pressure vessels as defined in CCR Title 8, Subchapter 1, Section 460.
3. Vessels used in compressed air, LPG, CNG, LNG, and NH₃ services as defined in CCR Title 8, Subchapter 1.

Employers subject to CCR Title 8 Subchapters 14 & 15 requirements shall alter boilers and pressure vessels in accordance with the 2004 Edition of the NBIC.

Repair or Alteration Inspection



A qualified inspector, as defined in CCR Title 8 Subchapter 2, shall make inspection and certification of repairs and alterations. The inspector shall hold a valid Certificate of Competency issued by the Division. The inspector shall be regularly employed by one of the following:

1. The Division
2. A City or County.
3. The Authorized Inspection Agency of the organization making the repair or alteration.
4. The Authorized Inspection Agency that insures the boiler or pressure vessel.
5. The Owner/User organization as defined in CCR Title 8 Subchapters 14 & 15 and the NBIC. The inspector shall not accept alterations performed by the inspector's employer.

Repair or Alteration Organizations

Repairs and alterations shall be performed by one of the following:

1. An organization in possession of a valid ASME Certificate of Authorization, providing the repair or alteration is within the scope of the certificate (e.g. the organization shall have an ASME Section I certificate for a boiler repair or alteration).
2. An organization in possession of a valid National Board Certificate of Authorization, providing the repair or alteration is within the scope of the certificate.
3. An organization having welding procedures and operators qualified in accordance with Section IX of the ASME Code may repair but not alter boilers and pressure vessels, providing the organizations repair program is accepted by the qualified inspector performing the repair inspection. This type of repair organization shall not be acceptable to those employers regulated by CCR Title 8 Subchapters 14 & 15.
4. All organizations performing repairs and/or alterations in the State of California shall have their Quality System Manual reviewed and accepted by the Division to ensure that all jurisdictional requirements are addressed.

Routine Repairs

Routine repairs as described in RC-2031 of the NBIC are not permitted. The stamping required by RC-2060 may be omitted for the routine repairs described in RC-2031 if acceptable to the qualified inspector. All repairs shall not be initiated without the authorization of the qualified inspector, who shall determine that the repair methods are acceptable and who shall have in-process involvement.



Jurisdictional Acceptance

In all instances when the NBIC refers to a repair or alteration that is subject to the acceptance of the Jurisdiction, the Repair Organization shall receive that acceptance in writing from the Division.

Repairs or Alterations Performed Out-of-State

Repairs and alterations of boiler and pressure vessels performed in a state other than California and are returned for service in California shall be done by a company with a valid National Board Certificate of Authorization and inspected by an inspector holding a valid National Board Commission. The repair or alteration shall conform to all the requirements of the NBIC and be so stamped.

Documentation of Repairs and Alterations

All repairs and alterations shall be documented on the appropriate National Board 'R' Form or equivalent and shall be registered with the National Board. Additionally, repairs and alterations performed to boilers, air tanks, and LPG tanks that require a permit to operate shall have the National Board 'R' Form or equivalent sent to the attention of the Principal Safety Engineer at the Pressure Vessel Unit Headquarters.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Donald C. Cook

Donald C. Cook
Principal Safety Engineer