



BOILER SAFETY INTERPRETATION/TECHNICAL LETTER  
BSI01

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Authorized Inspection Agencies & Supervisors

FROM: Fred P. Barton, Director/Chief Inspector  
Boiler Safety Compliance Program

SUBJECT: Issues for 2000

DATE: January 4, 2000

Now that the Y2K issue is behind (most of ) us it is time to address some other issues facing us in the new millennium. Some changes were implemented in 1999 that you may not be aware of.

Following is a summary of issues that you should be aware of:

A. Reratings – The 1999 Addenda of the ASME Section I and Section VIII, Division 1 Codes allow for maximum allowable design stresses based on a factor of 3.5 when tensile stress is the only consideration in establishing the maximum allowable stresses. Our Boiler Rules allow for high pressure boiler/pressure vessels that are constructed with a factor of 3.5 to be installed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. However, rerating existing equipment with a design factor is another matter. Based on Sections 16 VAC 25-50-360 (B) and (C) and 16 VAC 25-50-380 (A) and (B), the minimum design factor for existing high pressure boilers remains 4.5 and for existing pressure vessels remains 4.0.

B. Mechanically Assembling Piping for Replacement Boilers – The memorandum of 1/6/99 entitled “Boiler Rule Changes” explained the Section I Code change for mechanically connected boiler external piping, the new Form P-4B, and documentation required on Virginia BPV-5. These requirements for mechanically connected boiler external piping are for new installations contracted for after January 1, 1999. I would like to remind everyone that any mechanically connected boiler external piping associated with replacement boilers within Code boundaries must meet only the original construction Code. The “R” Stamp is mandatory only if assembly of the boiler replacement external piping involves welding.

C. The new certification process for issuing decals and payment of all decals/certificates has proven to be workable. There are now four insurance companies and one contract fee company involved in the new certification process. Two-thirds of all Virginia owner/users get decals promptly on renewal inspections. Two-thirds of all owners are also getting their certificates sooner now. There needs to be constant communication between the Virginia clerical staff to assure continued success.

D. It has been decided to have a meeting this spring with representatives of all inspection agencies to discuss certain subjects of common concern. The meeting will be held in AM of the same day that the Virginia Boiler and Pressure Vessel Association meets to reduce travel cost for those who would want to attend both. Subjects to discuss only with Inspectors and their Supervisors are:

- a. Exemptions
- b. Unregistered equipment located near registered equipment
- c. Duplicate Virginia numbers
- d. Lack of reporting replaced equipment

These are our issues, you may have others. Please let me know so time can be reserved to discuss your concerns as well as ours.

Please let me know if there are any questions on the subjects addressed above or others that should be shared.

FPB/fs