



BOILER SAFETY INTERPRETATION/TECHNICAL LETTER
BSI05

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Inspection Agencies and Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Various

DATE: January 6, 1999

A. BOILER RULES CHANGES

This fall the Safety and Health Codes Board approved significant changes in the Virginia Boiler Rules. Many changes will be effective January 1, 1999.

Some significant changes will be effective April 1, 1999 to allow companies (Repair and Inspection Agencies) to get ready. Repair companies will have to obtain "R" and "VR" Stamps by April 1, 1999. Please encourage your Inspectors to spread the word.

Inspection companies will have to arrange repair endorsements for any Inspector involved in repair/alterations by April 1, 1999. Enclosed is an application for each company to complete and return promptly to this office. Indicate on the application form which inspectors have either A or B endorsements from the National Board and attach a copy of a valid National Board work card with the endorsements. New Virginia ID work cards will be furnished with our "R" endorsement before April 1, 1999 at no charge. List all inspectors who may be involved in repair/alteration inspections in Virginia. Those inspectors who have no A or B endorsements will need to take a written exam in February or March in order to obtain the "R" endorsement on their new Virginia ID work cards. The exam will consist of 25 narrative style questions, open book, on Virginia Boiler Rules, 1998 Edition of NBIC, 1998 ASME Codes I, IV, IX, or B31.1. The passing grade will be 70%. There will be no charge for reissuing Virginia work cards until after April 1, 1999. After April 1, 1999, the \$20 work card fee will apply.

B. PILOT PROJECT STATUS

The Pilot Project for Inspectors issuing decals for acceptable renewal inspections and Inspection companies arranging payment for all Certificate fees has been implemented

for two months. It's too early to make any decisions but the early results are encouraging. More decals are being issued than anticipated. It has been a learning experience and everyone is working together to make it work. The Pilot Project will operate until at least April 1, 1999. As soon as we can evaluate the Pilot Project, decisions will be made as to permanently changing our system. Should the decision be to incorporate changes from the Pilot Project permanently into our system, other affected companies will be notified.

Inspection Companies with over 3% market share of Certificate Inspections may be expected to make changes. Please contact me to arrange a meeting of all involved companies.

C. ASME SECTION I CODE CHANGE

Various paragraphs have been changed to transfer accountability for (mechanically connected) boiler external piping to the installer. Companies who install mechanically assembled boiler external piping will have to hold a "PP", "A" or "S" Stamp or work for a company who has one but not stamp it. A new Form P-4B will have to be completed after a hydrostatic test is witnessed by an Authorized Inspector.

Many Mechanical Contractors will have to obtain ASME Code Stamps or make arrangements with companies who hold such Stamps in order to continue to perform mechanical assembly of external piping on Section I boilers. Please have your Inspectors pass the word.

Inservice Certificate Inspectors should start asking for the Form P-4B on all Section I boilers contracted for and installed after January 1, 1999. Effective April 1, 1999 Inservice Inspectors should note on Line 13-Requirements of Virginia's BPV-5 that the appropriate Form P-4B(s) has been reviewed or not applicable. Virginia BPV-5 received after April 1, 1999 without referencing the status of the Form P-4B will be returned.

D. RECALLS

We recently received Notices from Honeywell and ITT McDonnell & Miller related to recalls.

Please review and distribute the enclosed to your Inspectors.

If you have any questions contact me at (804) 786-3169 or E-Mail me at fpb@doli.state.va.us.

Encls.

FPB/fs