



BOILER SAFETY INTERPRETATION/TECHNICAL LETTER
BSI16

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Inspection Agencies, and Repair Organizations

FROM: Fred P. Barton, Director/Chief Inspector
Office of Compliance Management, Boiler Safety

SUBJECT: Initial Inspection and Registration of Used Boilers

DATE: May 16, 1997 (revised from March 25, 1997)

PURPOSE:

To provide guidance for minimum requirements for the initial inspection and registration of previously operated, Second-Hand, or Used Boilers and/or Fired Pressure Vessels being sent into the Commonwealth of Virginia (from outside of Virginia borders), and to set forth the policy and procedures of this office in instances of nonconformances to related sections of the regulation.

BACKGROUND:

The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules and Regulations of the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry Sub-Section 2.21 "Installation of Used or Second Hand Boilers or Pressure Vessels" codify the requirements for installation of previously operated boilers within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sub-Section 2.21 specifies that **prior to shipment** (into the Commonwealth of Virginia) the used object must be inspected by a qualified Inspector and the resulting data must be submitted to the Chief Inspector for his verbal approval.

However, many owner/users involve their Inspector only when the object has arrived on their site, installation is complete, or the object is, in fact, operating.

Please note that registered boilers moved within the Commonwealth of Virginia ("reinstalled") do not need to obtain the Chief's approval prior to moving the object, however, an inspection must be conducted at the new site to assure that fittings and controls meet **current** code requirements.

REQUIREMENTS:

Chief Inspector's approval obtained,

When a used object, which was constructed to the ASME Code, is inspected prior to shipment into the Commonwealth, the inspecting agency will, where construction permits, conduct and document a complete and thorough internal inspection as described in Chapter II (Part RB of the 1995 Edition) of the National Board Inspection Code.

A summary statement describing the previous application of the object and copies of all reports of welded repair (R-1's) shall be included as supporting documentation with the Virginia owner/user's request for approval. Once the verbal approval of the Chief Boiler Inspector has been acquired, initial installation inspection and registration may be accomplished in the usual and customary manner.

Chief Inspector's approval not obtained,

When an Inspector discovers such objects, he shall immediately notify the office of the Chief Inspector by phone or fax. If the object is found to be in operation, the Inspector shall advise the owner/user to cease operation immediately or a penalty will be assessed of up to \$100.00 per day for operating without a valid Certificate of Inspection. Each nonconformance of the regulation, improper fittings and appliances, for example, will be treated as separate offenses and penalties applied accordingly.

The owner/user will be physically and financially responsible for contracting and arranging for an authorized inspection agency to conduct the required inspection. The Commonwealth of Virginia may conduct the required inspection. The Chief Boiler Inspector may assign a Virginia Boiler Compliance Inspector to conduct the inspection, the fee for which shall be \$200.00 per day, plus expenses. Alternatively, the Chief Boiler Inspector may allow the Insurance Inspector or a Contract Fee Inspector, in which case the fee will be negotiated with the owner/user.

Inspection and Documentation:

Where construction permits, conduct and document a complete and thorough internal inspection. At the discretion of the Inspector, thickness measurements may be taken, and the Maximum Allowable Working Pressure (MAWP) calculated using the appropriate factor of safety. The object shall be subjected to hydrostatic test at 150% of MAWP. Pressure relief device capacity requirements shall be determined and documentation of object compliance provided. Inspection and testing shall be performed as prescribed in Chapter II (Part RB of the 1995 Edition) of the National Board Inspection Code including safety (relief) valves, pressure/temperature controls, and low water cut-offs, per current requirements (Sub-Section 2.22).

Documentation, including a summary statement of the intended application, operating conditions and parameters for the object, a brief description of the previous application, Manufacturer's Documentation, and copies of all reports of welded repair ((R-1's) shall be included as supporting documentation and be submitted with the Inspection Form (NB-5), for registration and issuance of Certificate of Inspection. On the back of the NB-5 form, the inspector shall document that all fittings and controls meet **current** code requirements.