

IPE VANCOUVER BRANCH



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ALTERNATIVE SAFETY APPROACHES

The BC Safety Authority announced the introduction of Safety Management Plans in October 2009.

They were brought in to help with problems in the bio-energy industry in B.C.

This industry may bring in new equipment (not ASME certified) and new methods that must satisfy the objectives of the Safety Standards Act that we haven't seen before.

As Power Engineers, we need to take part in this change to make sure it is done as safely as possible. We are the safety professionals working across the energy industry in B.C.

It is now time for the B.C. Safety Authority to start to write the regulations governing how we would apply for a Safety Management Plan, what criteria would be used to assess Safety Management Plans and how they would be approved.

The Boiler Technology Committee has received the initial presentation from the Authority and we provided some feedback. The concept is new, though and it will take more thought and careful consideration before we can provide them with all our thoughts on how this should be handled.

We need to get as many people currently involved with the safety of boilers and pressure vessels in B.C. to take part in this process.

Please have a look at the attached Notice to Stakeholders document that the B.C. Safety Authority sent out in October 2009 and the subsequent changes to the regulation in March 2010.

Go to the IPE website <http://www.ipevancouver.ca/index.php?page=Legislation>

and have a look at the Notice on Alternative Safety Approaches. Follow the links in the document to the announcement and the discussion paper.

Give the issue some thought.

I would rather be out there doing other activities this summer...



...but there are just some things we cannot ignore.

Alternative Safety Approaches include variances, Equivalent Standards Agreements and now, the Safety Management Plan.

Variances are given for a specific period of time on a specific piece of equipment.

With Equivalent Standards Agreements, all regulated equipment owners with an operating permit are obliged to regularly inspect and maintain their units to ensure they're in safe working condition and comply with the applicable code. This means managing the integrity of their pressure equipment throughout its lifecycle: from design, construction and installation, throughout its service life (operation, maintenance, repairs, alterations, inspections) to decommissioning.

There aren't many ESA's in place in B.C.

Safety Management Plans span the technologies, boiler, gas, electrical, etc. and can cover all the equipment in your plant. They could represent a permanent variance to the regulation.

Let's give them some thought.

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Special points of interest:

- Alternative Safety Approaches

Check the website, www.ipevancouver.ca for an update on the Professionalism Committee's Action Plan. Do not hesitate to call the Area Director for B.C. for more information.

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