

Notice

Servicing Intervals for Pressure Relief Valves on Tanks 2500 USWG and Less

This bulletin applies to the servicing of pressure relief valves (PRVs) installed on pressure vessels designed and fabricated in accordance with CSA B51 Boiler, pressure vessel, and pressure piping code, and installed and in service within the scope of the CSA B149.2, Propane storage and handling code.

These pressure vessels are subject to the *Safety Codes Act*, but do not require a certificate of inspection permit in accordance with Section 33(2)(e) of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. All other requirements of the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation (PESR) apply. Section 37(c) of the PESR establishes the requirement for the owner to maintain the PRVs in good working order.

Alberta Boiler Safety Association (ABSA) document AB-506, Inspection & Servicing Requirements for In-Service Pressure Equipment, requires that servicing of pressure relief valves for propane storage shall be in accordance with CSA B51. The current edition of the CSA B51 code has established the maximum servicing interval for PRVs installed on these pressure vessels at twenty-five (25) years (for details refer to CSA B51 Clause 12 and Table 5), with periodic visual inspection at a maximum interval of five (5) years.

The requirements of CSA B51 became mandatory in May 2014 when it was adopted under the Pressure Equipment Safety Regulation. It is the Owner's responsibility to ensure their pressure equipment is operated safely and is in compliance with the *Safety Codes Act*, the regulations, and the adopted codes and standards. It is understood that there are many existing propane storage vessels less than 2500 USWG that are not in compliance with the new requirement for PRV servicing, and that it is not practical to achieve full compliance on these existing installations within a short period of time. Owners of this type of pressure equipment have expressed, through the Canadian Propane Association, a desire to achieve compliance over a reasonable time period, and have asked for guidance in this regard.

Owners of vessels, not greater than 2500 USWG, are advised to develop and document an implementation compliance plan for the servicing of PRVs on these vessels. The compliance plan should be made on the basis of a risk assessment process to establish the priority for PRV servicing or replacement. PRVs should be serviced or replaced in accordance with the plan. They must be serviced or replaced sooner if there is evidence of malfunction or damage.

Compliance plans should be developed prior to December 31, 2015. It is expected that all PRVs on these vessels will be in compliance with the servicing requirements by May 31, 2024.

Compliance monitoring will be carried out by Gas Safety and ABSA. Safety codes officers in the gas discipline will monitor compliance at the time of installation inspections. ABSA safety codes officers in pressure equipment discipline will monitor compliance during audits of owner's integrity management systems.

For further information, contact Municipal Affairs, Technical and Corporate Services Division toll-free at 1-866-421-6929.