

BULLETIN 01-2014

January, 2014

**TO: OIL COMPANIES
OIL FIELD SERVICE COMPANIES
OIL FIELD ENGINE SUPPLY COMPANIES
LICENSED GAS CONTRACTORS**

SUBJECT: GENERAL OILFIELD NOTICE

OILFIELD EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATION NOTICE

SaskPower Gas Inspections issued Bulletin 01-2013 in April, 2013 to the oilfield industry, in part stating:

“As of January 1, 2015, all appliance and equipment utilizing gas as a fuel in the oil and gas industry shall be certified or approved as required by Section 26 of *The Gas Inspection Act, 1993*.”

Since the issuance of Bulletin 01-2006 on June 28, 2006, the oilfield industry has been aware of their responsibility for uncertified equipment to be field approved in compliance with the current issue of CSA B149.3 and that the resources exist to do so through the SaskPower Field Approval Program. To clarify Bulletin 01-2003 under the current *Gas Inspection Regulations*:

- a) the term “uncertified equipment” applies to all equipment which has not been previously certified as meeting an existing and approved standard at the time of installation and accepted by SaskPower Gas Inspections; and
- b) all applications for field approval of uncertified equipment must be made to SaskPower Gas Inspections, and the Chief Inspector determines if SaskPower Gas Inspections has the facilities to do so, or chooses (with the consent of the applicant) to use an Inspection Body accredited to do so by the Standards Council of Canada.

This supersedes Bulletin 01-2013.

ISOLATION VALVES ON HIGH AND LOW PRESSURES SWITCHES

SaskPower Gas Inspections has agreed with the oilfield industry that the current practice of setting and maintaining high and low pressure switches in place increases accuracy and maintainability in the interest of safety. Therefore, the following variance to B149.2-10 clause 7.6.10 for oilfield applications is granted:

A safety limit or a safety relief device shall not be isolated, bypassed, or in any way made ineffective by a valve or other device, except in oilfield applications where ¼ turn isolation ball valves are permitted on high and low pressure switches under the following conditions:

- a) these isolation valves may only be closed to permit setting and testing the switch in place,
- b) the operation of the appliance must be monitored manually at all times that a switch isolation valve is closed, and
- c) the valves must be lockable and locked in the open position at all times except when the switch is undergoing setting and testing in place (car-seals are only permitted in place of a lock on fenced and gated facilities having restricted access and having a corporate car-seal program in place).
- d) Any oilfield company choosing to exercise this option must have and maintain written procedures and training in the use and operation of high and low pressure switch isolation valves within which these conditions are minimum requirements.

LOW-FIRE VALVE TRAIN DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

CSA B149.3-10, Clause 9.3 requires a proven Low-Fire Start on a variable input appliance in excess of 1 million btuh input, but does not prescribe how this low-fire start may be accomplished. When a separate and parallel Low-Fire Start valve train is used, the safety requirements of this valve train are not prescribed in the code as it is neither the Main nor the Pilot.

The following clause addition to the Saskatchewan Code of Practice to CSA B149.3-10 is now effective:

9.3.1 Where the Low-Fire start required in clause 9.3 is accomplished by means of a separate Low-Fire valve train, the Low-Fire valve train shall meet the following requirements:

- a) for burners with a total maximum input rating of up to and including 750,000 btuh, the Low-Fire start valve train shall meet the Pilot Gas Valve Train clauses 4.5.4, 4.5.5, and 4.5.6 as applicable, and
- b) for burners with a total maximum input rating exceeding 750,000 btuh, the Low-Fire start valve train shall meet the Main Gas Valve Train clauses 5.3.1, 5.3.2 and 5.3.4 as applicable.

Designs which accomplish a proven Low-Fire start in compliance to clause 9.3 by other means which have been acceptable to SaskPower Gas Inspections remain acceptable.

PROPANE TANK SUPPORT (WELLHEAD SITES ONLY)

At wellhead sites, especially at certain times of the year, it can become difficult to set a propane tank on a firm and level support in accordance with CSA B149.2 clause 7.11.2 *“A horizontal tank with a capacity of 2000 USWG (7500 L) or less shall (a) be mounted on a maximum of two supports, and these supports shall be of non-combustible material in the form of piers, pads, saddles, blocks, steel beam skid rails, or concrete, each of sufficient strength to support the weight of the tank when filled to capacity with propane”*.

For the purposes of meeting the intent of this clause, SaskPower Gas Inspections will accept, at wellhead sites only, a propane tank support system consisting of 3” x 12” rough cut lumber (approximately 10feet in length) and covered with a minimum of 2” gravel.

COMMENT PERIOD FOR PROPOSED ACT CHANGES

Following consultation with MCAS, SaskEnergy, TSASK, Gas & Electrical Licensing, SGI, CAPP, and APEGS, SaskPower Gas Inspections is proposing eleven changes to *The Gas Inspections Act, 1993*. A final comment period is now open to the general public. The proposed changes can be viewed on-line at this website: <http://www.saskpower.com/accounts-and-services/gas-permits-and-inspections/gas-codes-inspection-act-and-regulations/>

Written comments to these proposed changes may be delivered either by fax (306-566-2906) or by email to geis@saskpower.com and must be received no later than February 7, 2014.

Thank you for your co-operation in the matters of public safety.



Syed Asif Ali, P. Eng.
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