



Labour Department

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勞工處

Boilers and Pressure Vessels Division
鍋爐及壓力容器科

12 October, 2018

Circular No. 3/2018

Instructions to Appointed Examiners

Exemption of PVHO from fusible plug when safety valve not fitted directly on the chamber

Pressure Vessels for Human Occupancy are generally catalogued under air receivers, a Pressure Vessel for Human Occupancy (PVHO) may need to fit a quick-operating manual shutoff valve between the PVHO and the safety valve. The manual shutoff valve shall be sealed open with frangible seal and is a requirement of the Safety Standard for PVHO issued by ASME (1-8 of ASME PVHO-1-2012 refers).

In accordance with Regulation 5(3) of the Boilers and Pressure Vessels Regulations, Cap. 56A (*regulation*), in case the safety valve is not fitted directly to the PVHO, e.g. fitted with a quick-operating manual shutoff valve in-between, a suitable fusible plug shall also be fitted to the PVHO. However, PVHOs are not fitted with the fusible plug in general.

Your attention is drawn to confirm the compliance of the *regulation* by the PVHO constructed particularly in accordance with ASME. In case a suitable fusible plug is not fitted as required, Appointed Examiner (AE) is advised to assist owner to apply for an exemption of the *regulation*.

Approval of exemption cases are based on the satisfactory survey report and recommendation submitted by AE. Exemption certificate will be issued to the owner if the Authority considers it is applicable with conditions specified.

Conditions for granting an exemption of the *regulation* for PVHO will be subject to individual circumstances. However, general conditions for the exemption are specified as follows:

- 1) The manual shutoff valve between the PVHO and the safety valve shall be sealed open with frangible seal by the appointed examiner. The frangible seal shall be checked and confirmed in proper condition by the appointed examiner and endorsed on the new certificate of fitness upon renewal of the certificate of fitness.
- 2) The owner of the PVHO shall ensure that the frangible seal of the manual shutoff valve is in proper sealed condition. If the frangible seal is broken or tampered with, the manual shut off valve shall be re-sealed by the/an appointed examiner immediately before the PVHO is pressurized or after release of the pressure inside the PVHO, whichever is applicable.

- 3) A copy of the operating procedures in operating the PVHO and a safety caution sign of appropriate wordings, in a language suitable to the operators, shall be displayed conspicuously on or next to the equipment. Safety caution sign means, for example, the manual shutoff valve should be kept in sealed open position except in emergency situation, such as leakage of the safety valve etc.

When applying for the exemption of the PVHO, the AE should tick the box "FP" in the "Check Code" section of the "Supplementary Action Sheet" which would be appended to the "Application for Registration".

In order to standardise the procedure for such application, a Form 5A is devised and attached in "Enclosure 1" for your easy reference. You are advised to render assistance to owner in completing the Form 5A.

For any queries, please feel free to contact the undersigned at telephone number: 3107 3440.



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for Boilers and Pressure Vessels Authority

Enclosure 1: Sample Form 5A for exemption of fusible plug.

Distribution: All Appointed Examiners

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