

Pressure Systems' Compliance - Written Scheme

Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (S.I.2000:2008)

Amongst the provisions of the 19 Regulations there are requirements for a written scheme of examination (WSE) (Reg.8) and consequently an examination in accordance with that written scheme (Reg.9).

A WSE is required if the product of the pressure in bar and internal volume in litres of its pressure vessels is in each case more than 250 bar litres.

Responsibility

The user of an installed system and owner of a mobile system are required to have a WSE for any compressed air system under their control. The said user or owner shall ensure that the scheme has been drawn up, or certified as being suitable, by a competent person.

The said user or owner shall ensure that the content of the scheme is reviewed at appropriate intervals by a competent person for the purpose of determining whether it is suitable in current conditions of use of the system; and the content of the scheme is modified in accordance with any recommendations made by that competent person arising out of that review.

Content

3.1 Equipment

The equipment to be included shall be all protective devices and every pressure vessel in which a defect may give rise to danger. In addition those parts of the pipework in which a defect may give rise to danger, shall be identified in the scheme.

3.2 Activity

The WSE as drawn up by the Competent Person shall specify the nature and frequency of examination and any measures necessary to prepare the pressure system for safe examination other than those it would be reasonable to expect the user (in the case of an installed system) or owner (in the case of a mobile system) to take without specialist advice. In addition and where appropriate provision shall be made for an examination to be carried out before the pressure system is used for the first time.

Further information can be obtained from www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg178.pdf

BCAS Training

BCAS runs regular 1-day workshops on the background to written schemes for those wishing to gain knowledge of the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations.

BCAS also runs a 5-day Examiner's course in support of the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations. Those who successfully complete the 3 examinations during the week receive a numbered certificate valid for 3 years. The successful candidate's name will be entered into the BCAS Register of Examiners.

Contact BCAS for details on either course or further information on the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations.