



maintenance management order

SUBJECT: Inspection of Unfired Pressure Vessels

DATE: May 10, 1996

NO: MMO-017-96

- TO:**
1. All Maintenance Capable Offices
 2. Area Office Safety Managers
 3. District Office Safety Managers
 4. Boiler Inspectors
 5. Facilities Planning & Approval Office

FILE CODE: M

rflu:MM9608AB

This Maintenance Management Order (MMO) is effective immediately and supersedes and replaces MMO-035-82, "*Inspection of Unfired Pressure Vessels*". This MMO brings the program into compliance with Management Instruction MI-AS-620-94-1, "*Safety Inspection of Heating Boilers, Unfired Pressure Vessels, Elevators, Escalators, and Dumbwaiters*".

Section 10-6 of MS-1 and MI-AS-620-94-1 require periodic safety inspections of unfired pressure vessels every three years. Air receivers of all types (both portable and permanently installed) are unfired pressure vessels requiring inspection unless they are small enough to be exempted by Paragraph 10-604b of MS-1.

Experience has shown that all air tanks, regardless of size, should be inspected. Therefore a pen and ink change shall be made to delete Paragraph 10-604b of Handbook MS-1. In the white area near paragraph 10-604b, write the number of this bulletin and the initials of the individual making the pen and ink deletion.

To ensure that all offices have complied with safety inspection requirements for air tanks, immediate action shall be taken to ensure that every air tank is inspected and the safety certificate (PS Form 279A) is posted conspicuously on or adjacent to the tank.

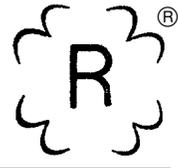
The pressure relief device for air tanks shall be set to operate at a pressure not exceeding the maximum allowable working pressure of the tank. The set pressure tolerance of the safety or relief valve shall not exceed plus or minus 2 psi for pressure up to 70 psi and plus or minus 3% of working pressure for pressure above 70 psi.

Postmasters, Plant Managers, and Maintenance Managers are reminded that all pressure vessels used in U.S. Postal Service facilities shall be constructed and inspected in accordance with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code and stamped with the appropriate Code symbol:



Reference: Management Instruction AS-620-94-1

If a pressure vessel is repaired or altered by welding, the organization performing such repairs shall hold a current certificate of authorization to perform such repairs from the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors. The vessel shall be stamped with the repair symbol adjacent to the original manufacturer's stamping on the data plate. This stamp may be on a repair plate similar to the one illustrated.

	_____	
	(Name of Repair Firm)	
No. _____ (National Board Repair Symbol Stamp No.)	_____ PSI at _____ °F	
	(Maximum Allowable Working Pressure)	(Temp.)

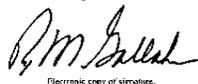
	(Date of Repair)	

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National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors
 Repair Data Plate

Direct any questions or comments concerning this bulletin to the Maintenance Technical Support Center, P.O. Box 1600, Norman OK 73070-6708; telephone FTS 2000 (405) 573-2123 or toll free (800) 366-4123.

Direct all inquiries about code interpretations and requirements to the elevator and boiler inspection coordinators or the program manager, Facilities Planning and Approval at Headquarters; telephone (202) 268-3906.



Rex M. Gallaher
 Manager
 Maintenance Technical Support Center

Maintenance Policies and Programs