

SAFETY COMPENDIUM – BOILERS & PRESSURE TANKS

Postal Service-owned and -leased facilities that the Postal Service is responsible for maintaining must have a current inspection certificate issued by the Postal Service for each piece of equipment, boilers and pressure tanks. The maintenance manager or facility manager must not allow equipment to be operated that does not have a current certificate.

The facility manager or designee must observe equipment in existing lessor-maintained leased facilities to ensure that they are receiving inspections. If the equipment is not being adequately maintained, inspected, or repaired, the facility manager must initiate corrective action by notifying the FSO in writing.

The following pressure vessels are not required to be inspected or have a safety certification:

- Unfired expansion tanks used for hot water and chilled water systems.
- Unfired pressure vessels used in conjunction with Department of Transportation (DOT) applications.
- Refrigerant receivers, special-purpose vessels (such as welding gas tanks), vessels not subject to internal corrosion, and integral parts of air compressors other than air receiver tanks. **Note:** This equipment may be evaluated by the BEI coordinator to determine if the inspection requirements apply to them.
- High pressure and power equipment (more than 15 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) steam or hot water boilers exceeding 160 psig or 250 degrees Fahrenheit (°F)). Such equipment is beyond the scope of this program and therefore is referred when encountered to the Building Equipment Inspector (BEI) program manager.

Safety inspection certificate, PS Form 279-A, *Certificate of Pressure Vessel Inspection*, must be mounted as follows:

- **Boiler:** On the wall closest to the front burner of the boiler.
- **Unfired pressure vessel:** On the pressure vessel or closest wall.
- Certificates must be easily visible, easily identified with the equipment, and protected from deterioration and vandalism.
- If required by state or local regulations in leased Postal Service-maintained facilities, lessors whose equipment is also inspected by the state or local government or other inspectors must post that inspection agency's certificate in addition to the Postal Service certificate.

After determining that the equipment is safe to operate, the BEI signs, dates, and issues a certificate (PS Form 279-A). The BEI then distributes copies of the inspection report to the following persons:

- Facility manager.
- The manager of Maintenance Support at the area office.
- The area office's safety specialist.
- For all *leased* facilities, the FSO manager of Real Estate.

When the BEI finds deficiencies that make the equipment unsafe to operate, the inspector must:

1. Remove the existing certificate.
2. Advise the facility manager and the area office's safety specialist orally and in writing that the equipment is unsafe.
3. Identify the safety deficiencies requiring correction.
4. Obtain the signature of the facility manager or representative and the area office's safety specialist on a letter of notification of equipment failure.

When equipment is identified as unsafe the following actions must be taken. The facility manager or representative must have the equipment tagged with PS Form 4707, *Out of Order*, and remove the equipment from service. The area office's safety specialist must verify that this equipment has been removed from service. After the repairs are completed, the facility manager then notifies the BEI in writing so that a re-inspection can be scheduled because PS Form 4707 remains in effect until a safety certificate is issued.

Safety Inspection Frequencies

Equipment	Type of Inspection	Frequency of Inspection
Boilers		
Power boilers ² (more than 15 psig steam pressure or hot water boilers exceeding 160 psig or 250°F)	External	Annually
Steam heating boilers ³ (15 psig or less)	External	Annually
Hot water heating boilers	External	Every 2 years
Cast iron heating boilers (under 400,000 British thermal units per hour (Btuh)) and specialty units	External	Every 2 years
Hot water supply boilers that exceed any one of the following: 120 gallon water capacity or Burner input of 200,000 Btuh or Temperature 210°F	External	Every 2 years
Unfired pressure vessels		
Water tanks used to supply potable water under pressure to a building	External	Every 4 year
Air tanks and other pressure vessels subject to internal corrosion	External	Every 4 years

The Pacific Area Website has a report showing the status of boilers and unfired pressure vessels (UPV). Go to the Area webpage and go to the Facilities page. Select Boilers/Elevator (BEWEB). You do not need a password, click on Guest Login Read Only Access, then Report Menu. Click either Custom Boiler Query or Custom Elevator Query or Custom UPV Query. Select your District from the drop down menu. Click Drop down for Sort by at bottom and sort by Expiration Date

➤ **Do not use the boiler room, electrical panel room, or air conditioning equipment room for storage.**

Sources: AS-530-2004-9, Safety Inspection of Heating Boilers, Unfired Pressure Vessels, Elevators, Escalators, Dumbwaiters, Platform Lifts, and Chairlifts