

Inspection Practices for Pressure Vessels

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Contents

| | Page |
|--|------|
| 1 Scope | 1 |
| 2 Normative References | 1 |
| 3 Terms and Definitions | 1 |
| 3.1 Definitions | 1 |
| 3.2 Acronyms and Abbreviations | 6 |
| 4 Introduction to Pressure Vessels | 6 |
| 4.1 General | 6 |
| 4.2 Methods of Construction | 6 |
| 4.3 Materials of Construction | 7 |
| 4.4 Internal Components and Equipment | 8 |
| 4.5 Uses of Pressure Vessels | 11 |
| 4.6 Design and Construction Standards | 12 |
| 5 Reasons for Inspection | 15 |
| 5.1 General | 15 |
| 5.2 Safety | 15 |
| 5.3 Reliability and Efficient Operation | 16 |
| 5.4 Regulatory Requirements | 16 |
| 6 Inspection Plans | 17 |
| 6.1 General | 17 |
| 6.2 Inspection for Specific Types of Damage | 17 |
| 6.3 Developing Inspection Plans | 18 |
| 6.4 Reviewing and Updating Inspection Plans | 18 |
| 6.5 RBI | 19 |
| 7 Frequency and Extent of Inspection | 19 |
| 7.1 General | 19 |
| 7.2 Opportunities for Inspection | 20 |
| 8 Safety Precautions and Preparatory Work | 21 |
| 8.1 Safety Precautions | 21 |
| 8.2 Preparatory Work | 21 |
| 9 Inspection Methods and Limitations | 24 |
| 9.1 General | 24 |
| 9.2 Thickness Measurements | 24 |
| 9.3 External Inspection | 27 |
| 9.4 Internal Inspection | 36 |
| 9.5 Special Methods of Detecting Mechanical Damage | 48 |
| 9.6 Metallurgical Changes and In-situ Analysis of Metals | 49 |
| 9.7 Testing | 49 |
| 10 Condition Assessment and Repair | 53 |
| 10.1 General | 53 |
| 10.2 Visual Inspection | 53 |
| 10.3 Thickness Measurements | 54 |
| 10.4 Remaining Life | 54 |
| 10.5 Methods of Repair | 54 |
| 10.6 Repair of Supporting Vessel Equipment | 55 |

Contents

| | Page |
|--|------|
| 11 Records and Reports | 56 |
| 11.1 Records | 56 |
| 11.2 Reports | 57 |
| Annex A (informative) Exchangers | 57 |
| Annex B (informative) Towers | 74 |
| Annex C (informative) Sample Record Forms | 131 |
| Bibliography | 144 |
| | |
| Figures | |
| 1 Type 3016 Stainless-clad Vessel | 8 |
| 2 Weld Metal Surfacing | 9 |
| 3 Strip-lined Vessel | 9 |
| 4 Principal Strip-lining Methods | 10 |
| 5 Hex Mesh Installation for Refractory Lining | 10 |
| 6 Reinforced Refractory | 11 |
| 7 Vertical Heat Exchanger | 12 |
| 8 Horizontal Vessel | 13 |
| 9 Spheres | 14 |
| 10 Horton Spheroid (Noded) | 14 |
| 11 Process Tower | 15 |
| 12 Exchangers | 16 |
| 13 Exchanger Installation and Foundation | 28 |
| 14 Severe Deterioration of Anchor Bolts | 29 |
| 15 Method of Obtaining Vessel Profile Measurements | 35 |
| 16 Corrosion in Channel | 38 |
| 17 Crack in Weld Seen by PT | 39 |
| 18 Hydrogen Blistering | 41 |
| 19 Self-vented Hydrogen Blisters | 41 |
| 20 Radiograph of Self-vented Hydrogen Blisters in Carbon Steel | 42 |
| 21 Catalytic Reactor Internals—Spheres | 43 |
| 22 Corrosion Tab Method of Determining Metal Loss on Vessel Linings | 45 |
| 23 Strip-liner Damage | 46 |
| 24 Deteriorated Refractory Tile Lining | 48 |
| 25 Steps in Using Special Equipment to Test Individual Tubes | 52 |
| A.1 Properly Rolled Tube | 58 |
| A.2 Tube-bundle Type of Tank Heater | 60 |
| A.3 Air-cooled Exchangers | 61 |
| A.4 Clean-service Double-pipe Coils | 62 |
| A.5 Tank Suction Heater with Everything but Forward End Enclosed; Shell Suction Nozzle Enclosed in Far End | 63 |
| A.6 E-type Tubes in Double-pipe Coil | 64 |
| A.7 Plate-type Exchanger | 64 |
| A.8 Tubes Thinned at Baffles | 66 |
| A.9 Tubes Fretting at Baffles | 67 |
| A.10 Erosion–Corrosion Attack at Tube Ends | 67 |
| A.11 Heat Exchanger Parts | 70 |
| A.12 Heat Exchanger Types | 73 |
| B.1 Typical Trays in a Tower | 74 |
| B.2 Random Packing in a Tower | 74 |

Contents

| | Page |
|---|------|
| B.3 Trays with Downcomers | 75 |
| B.4 Bubble Cap Flow Path | 75 |
| B.5 Tower Stripping and Rectification Section | 76 |
| B.6 Disk/Donut Tray | 77 |
| B.7 Baffle Tray Arrangement | 78 |
| B.8 Figure Tray | 79 |
| B.9 Sieve Tray Distortion | 79 |
| B.10 Typical Trayed Tower | 82 |
| B.11 Float Valves with Two Weights | 83 |
| B.12 Fixed Valves | 83 |
| B.13 Bubble Cap Valves | 84 |
| B.14 Extruded Valves | 84 |
| B.15 New Floating Valve Tray | 85 |
| B.16 Caged Valves | 85 |
| B.17 Typical Packed Tower Drawing | 86 |
| B.18 Random Packing, Pall Rings | 87 |
| B.19 Structured Packing | 87 |
| B.20 Grid-style Packing | 88 |
| B.21 Diagram of Required Scaffolding | 90 |
| B.22 Hexagonal Manways | 91 |
| B.23 Standing Oil and Water | 91 |
| B.24 Trays Collapsed | 92 |
| B.25 Corroded Anchor Bolting | 92 |
| B.26 Corroded Anchor Bolting | 93 |
| B.27 Cracked and Bulged Fireproofing | 93 |
| B.28 Debris in Skirt | 94 |
| B.29 Preliminary Inspection | 94 |
| B.30 Bed Damage at Preliminary Inspection | 95 |
| B.31 Manway Corrosion | 95 |
| B.32 Manway Liner Damage | 96 |
| B.33 Corrosion on Gasket Sealing Surface | 96 |
| B.34 Corrosion on Gasket Sealing Surface | 97 |
| B.35 Surface Corrosion of Shell | 97 |
| B.36 Inspection from the Bottom Head | 98 |
| B.37 Inspection of Packing via Riser | 98 |
| B.38 Demister Bypass Deposits | 99 |
| B.39 Fouled Demister Pads | 99 |
| B.40 Faulty Demister Installation | 100 |
| B.41 Preferential Corrosion of the Head-to-Shell Weld | 100 |
| B.42 Head Steam Preferential Corrosion | 101 |
| B.43 Preferential Corrosion of the Shell | 101 |
| B.44 Penetration Degradation | 102 |
| B.45 Chimney Tray Deformation at Draw Sump | 102 |
| B.46 Fouled Troughs on Box and Trough Distributor | 103 |
| B.47 Obstructed Pipe Distributor Perforations | 103 |
| B.48 Box and Troughs | 104 |
| B.49 Hit the Washers, Not the Bolts | 104 |
| B.50 Random Packing on Valve Tray | 105 |
| B.51 Bed Limiter Above Random Packing | 105 |

Contents

| | Page |
|--|------|
| B.52 Dislodged Packing | 106 |
| B.53 Damaged Packing Support Grid | 106 |
| B.54 Support Grid from Below | 107 |
| B.55 Corrosion Inside Sightglass Nozzle | 107 |
| B.56 Bottom Head, Vortex Breaker, and Debris | 108 |
| B.57 Fouled Grid-type Packing | 109 |
| B.58 Cracked Plug Weld | 109 |
| B.59 Stainless Steel Donut Cladding Breach | 110 |
| B.60 Cladding Breach at Gouges in Bottom Head | 110 |
| B.61 410 Stainless Steel Clad to Carbon Steel Interface Weld | 111 |
| B.62 Supplemental UT Markings | 111 |
| B.63 Cracking at Tray Support Ring Weld | 112 |
| B.64 WFMPT Discovered Cracking | 113 |
| B.65 Supplemental NDE May Be Needed | 113 |
| B.66 Areas of Chemical Activity | 114 |
| B.67 Areas of Activity | 114 |
| B.68 Hardware Corrosion | 115 |
| B.69 Stuck Valves Always Open | 115 |
| B.70 Clean Square-edged Perforation | 116 |
| B.71 Valve Fretting | 116 |
| B.72 Slotting from Below | 117 |
| B.73 Valve Leg and Perforation Inspection | 117 |
| B.74 Indentation of Valves | 118 |
| B.75 New Caged Valves with Dimples | 118 |
| B.76 New Caged Valve Cage Tabs | 119 |
| B.77 Small Fixed Valves | 120 |
| B.78 Fixed Valved Lateral Vapor Directional Flow | 120 |
| B.79 Removable Fixed Valves Reduce Fouling | 121 |
| B.80 Removable Fixed Valves Tray Damage | 121 |
| B.81 Bubble Caps on Stepped Tray | 122 |
| B.82 Fibrous Deposits and Fouling Under Bubble Caps | 122 |
| B.83 Tray Deck Should Be Scraper Clean | 123 |
| B.84 Tray Fatigue Cracking | 124 |
| B.85 Light-to-moderate Valve Corrosion | 124 |
| B.86 Loose and Missing Hardware Failure | 125 |
| B.87 Downcomer and Seal Pan Clamps Loose | 125 |
| B.88 Downcomer Clamp Loose | 126 |
| B.89 Tray Support Ring Corroded to Failure | 126 |
| B.90 Shell Corroded to Half Wall Adjacent Top Three Rings | 127 |
| B.91 Support Ring Grooving | 127 |
| B.92 Deposits Adjacent to Shell Are on Ring | 128 |
| B.93 Cracking of Ring Attachment Weld | 128 |
| B.94 Tray Support Ring Butt Weld Cracking | 129 |
| B.95 Breaching of the Seal Weld | 129 |
| B.96 Shadowing Inside the Downcomer | 130 |
| B.97 Shadow the Downcomer Shell Every Tray | 130 |

Inspection Practices for Pressure Vessels

1 Scope

This recommended practice (RP) supplements API 510 by providing pressure vessel inspectors with information that can improve skills and increase basic knowledge of inspection practices. This RP describes inspection practices for the various types of pressure vessels (e.g. drums, heat exchangers, columns, reactors, air coolers, spheres) used in petroleum refineries and chemical plants. This RP addresses vessel components, inspection planning processes, inspection intervals, methods of inspection and assessment, methods of repair, records and reports. API 510 has requirements and expectations for inspection of pressure vessels.

2 Normative References

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

API 510, *Pressure Vessel Inspection Code: In-service Inspection, Rating, Repair, and Alteration*

API Recommended Practice 571, *Damage Mechanisms Affecting Fixed Equipment in the Refining Industry*

API Recommended Practice 574, *Inspection Practices for Piping System Components*

API 579-1/ASME FFS 1¹, *Fitness-For-Service*

API Recommended Practice 580, *Risk-Based Inspection*

API Publication 2217A, *Guidelines for Safe Work in Inert Confined Spaces in the Petroleum and Petrochemical Industries*

ASME Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code (BPVC), *Section VIII: Pressure Vessels*

3 Terms and Definitions

3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions apply.

3.1.1

alteration

A physical change in any component that has design implications that affect the pressure-containing capability of a pressure vessel beyond the scope described in existing data reports. The following should not be considered alterations: a) any comparable or duplicate replacement, the addition of any reinforced nozzle less than or equal to the size of existing reinforced nozzles, and the addition of nozzles not requiring reinforcement.

3.1.2

cladding

A metal integrally bonded onto another metal under high pressure and temperature whose properties are better suited to resist damage from the process than the substrate material.

¹ ASME International, 3 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016, www.asme.org.