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2023 NBIC

NATIONAL BOARD INSPECTION CODE

ANSI/NB23

PART 4

PRESSURE RELIEF DEVICES

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF BOILER AND PRESSURE VESSEL INSPECTORS

NATIONAL BOARD INSPECTION CODE
2023 EDITION
DATE OF ISSUE — JULY 1, 2023

This code was developed under procedures accredited as meeting the criteria for American National Standards. The Consensus Committee that approved the code was balanced to ensure that individuals from competent and concerned interests had an opportunity to participate. The proposed code was made available for public review and comment, which provided an opportunity for additional public input from industry, academia, regulatory and Jurisdictional agencies, and the public-at-large.

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INTRODUCTION

It is the purpose of the *National Board Inspection Code* (NBIC) to maintain the integrity of pressure-retaining items by providing rules for post-construction activities including installation, and by providing rules for post-installation activities including inspections, repairs, and alterations, thereby ensuring the safety of the pressure-retaining items' continued use.

The NBIC is intended to provide rules, information, and guidance to manufacturers, jurisdictions, Inspectors, owner-users, installers, contractors, and other individuals and organizations performing or involved in post-construction activities, thereby encouraging the uniform administration of rules pertaining to pressure retaining items.

SCOPE

The NBIC recognizes four important areas of post-construction activities where information, understanding, and following specific requirements will promote public and personal safety. These areas include:

- Installation
- Inspection
- Repairs and Alterations
- Testing of Pressure Relief Devices

The NBIC provides rules, information, and guidance for post-construction activities, but does not provide details for all conditions involving pressure-retaining items. Where complete details are not provided in this Code, the Code user is advised to seek guidance from the applicable jurisdiction or other technical sources.

The words "shall," "should," and "may" are used throughout the NBIC and have the following intent:

- Shall – action that is mandatory.
- Should – indicates a preferred but not mandatory means to accomplish the requirement unless specified by other sources, such as the Jurisdiction.
- May – permissive, not required or a means to accomplish the specified task.

ORGANIZATION

The NBIC is organized into four parts to coincide with specific post-construction activities involving pressure-retaining items. Each part provides general and specific rules, information, and guidance within each applicable post-construction activity. Individual NBIC parts or other published standards may contain additional information or requirements needed to meet the rules of the NBIC. Each part provides specific references to direct the user where to find this additional information. NBIC parts are identified as:

- Part 1, Installation – This part provides requirements and guidance to ensure the proper installation and functioning of all types of pressure-retaining items. Installation includes meeting specific safety criteria for construction, materials, design, supports, safety devices, operation, testing, and maintenance.
- Part 2, Inspection – This part provides information and guidance needed to perform and document inspections for all types of pressure-retaining items. This part includes information on personnel safety, non-destructive examination, tests, failure mechanisms, types of pressure equipment, fitness for service, risk-based assessments, and performance-based standards.
- Part 3, Repairs and Alterations – This part provides requirements and guidance to perform, verify, and document acceptable repairs or alterations to pressure-retaining items regardless of code of construction. Alternative methods for examination, testing, heat treatment, etc., are provided when the original code of construction requirements cannot be met. Specific acceptable and proven repair methods are also provided.
- Part 4, Pressure Relief Devices – This part provides information and guidance to ensure pressure relief devices are installed properly, that inspections of pressure relief devices are performed and documented properly, and that repairs to pressure relief devices are performed, verified, and documented properly.

Each part of the NBIC is divided into major sections as outlined in the Table of Contents.