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THE PRESSURE SYSTEMS SAFETY REGULATIONS 2000

SI 2000 No 128

This OM informs inspectors about the key changes introduced by the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000.

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BACKGROUND

1 The Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR) (file 308) came into force on 21 February 2000. The Regulations revoke and re-enact, with minor change, the Pressure Systems and Transportable Gas Containers Regulations 1989 (PSTGC Regulations) ([see OC 308/13](#)). This OM sets out the background and key changes arising from this new legislation.

2 Since the PSTGC Regulations came into full effect on 1 July 1994 they had been subject to a number of amendments. In particular:

- (1) the Carriage of Dangerous Goods (Classification, Packaging, and Labelling) and Use of Transportable Pressure Receptacles Regulations 1996 (CDGCPL2) ([see OC 289/18](#)) revoked PSTGC Regulations regs.16-22 which dealt with the supply and use of transportable gas containers (now termed transportable pressure receptacles). Consequently the title of the 1989 statutory instrument (SI) no longer reflected its scope of application; and

(2) PSTGC Regulations had been amended by a series of other SIs, for example, the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Regulations 1996, and the Diving at Work Regulations 1997.

3 In addition, the Pressure Equipment Regulations 1999 (PER) ([see OM 2000/112](#)) which came into force on the 29 November 1999, contained a number of requirements for pressure equipment that overlapped the provisions in PSTGC Regulations on design, manufacture and supply of pressure systems.

4 As a consequence of the developments at paras 2 and 3, the Health and Safety Commission agreed to consolidate all the amendments into a new set of regulations, called the Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000 (PSSR). All the well-established provisions of PSTGC Regulations, eg safe operating limits, the written scheme of examination, examination by a competent person, maintenance etc, have been retained in PSSR with no new duties/requirements (but [see para 9](#)).

5 As with PSTGC Regulations, PSSR do not apply offshore except for maintenance, repair and construction work on offshore installations within territorial waters (ie within 12 miles of the coast). FOD inspectors may be involved with HID Offshore Division (formerly OSD) in joint inspections of 'stacked' rigs undergoing work ([see OC 18/7](#)).

GUIDANCE

6 A new Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) (L122) *Safety of pressure systems: Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000* containing the text of the Regulations and guidance will be published around May 2000. The ACoP in support of PSTGC Regulations, *Safety of pressure systems* (COP37), and the guidance booklet *A Guide to the Pressure Systems and Transportable Gas Containers Regulations 1989* (HS(R)30) will be withdrawn at that time.

7 Inspectors should note the following 2 typographical errors in PSSR:

(1) reg.9(3) makes reference to reg.14(4). This reference is superfluous as reg.14(4) does not exist.

(2) reg.14(1)(c)(i) reads 'information provided pursuant to regulation 5 of this regulation'; it should read 'information provided pursuant to regulation 5 of these Regulations'.

An amendment to the Regulations will be made to address (1) in due course. A correction slip has already been published to remedy (2). The existence of these 2 errors will be highlighted in the new ACoP publication.

8 The guidance on PSTGC Regulations ([see OC 308/13](#)) is still current in respect of the topics covered, subject to the changes described in this OM. Inspectors may wish to refer to this instruction for further guidance on particular topics, where necessary.

SUMMARY OF MAIN CHANGES

9 The main changes brought about by PSSR are:

(1) some of the individual regulations have been renumbered (the contents of the new regulations, cross-referenced to their equivalent in PSTGC Regulations,

are reproduced at [Appendix 1](#);

(2) PSSR allows duty holders to provide information, keep records, issue reports **in any form** where an 'in writing' or 'written' requirement is made (see reg.2(2)). This will therefore include electronic or digital storage, eg on computer, subject to certain conditions being met on reproduction in a hard copy format and preventing unauthorised interference;

(3) the requirements for the design and manufacture of a pressure system, or a part of a pressure system, and some of the requirements on information and marking are disapplied when such equipment is supplied in accordance with the Medical Devices Regulations 1994 ([see HSE Guide to the inspection of manufacture and supply \(HSE Guide\) Chapter 4.23](#)), or PER (see OM 2000/112) (see Schedule 1, Part II, para 1); and

(4) known anomalies within the PSTGC Regulations have been resolved by making minimal change to existing regulations; more specifically, the scope of the 250 bar litre exception for pressure systems which contain a relevant fluid other than steam has been amended ([see Appendix 2, para 13](#)).

The main changes are discussed in more detail at Appendix 2.

ANNOTATION OF INSTRUCTIONS

10 OC 308/13 - **note** 'see OM 2000/113'.

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APPENDIX 1 (para 9)

ARRANGEMENT OF THE PRESSURE SYSTEMS SAFETY REGULATIONS 2000

PSSR	Title	PSTGC eq
reg.1	Citation and commencement	reg.1
reg.2	Interpretation	reg.2
reg.3	Application and duties	reg.3
reg.3(1)(a)	(Extension outside Great Britain)	reg.25
reg.4	Design and construction	reg.4(1)-(5)
reg.5	Provision of information and marking	reg.5
reg.6	Installation	reg.6
reg.7	Safe operating limits	reg.7
reg.8	Written scheme of examination	reg.8
reg.9	Examination in accordance with the written scheme	reg.9

reg.10	Action in the case of imminent danger	reg.10
reg.11	Operation	reg.11
reg.12	Maintenance	reg.12
reg.13	Modification and repair	reg.4(6)
reg.14	Keeping of records, etc	reg.13
reg.15	Precautions to prevent overpressurisation of certain vessels	regs.14 &
reg.16	Defence	reg.23
reg.17	Power to grant exemptions	reg.24
reg.18	Repeals and revocations	
reg.19	Transitional provisions	
Schedule 1	Exceptions to the Regulations	Schedule
Schedule 2	Modifications of duties in cases where pressure systems are supplied by way of lease, hire or other arrangements	Schedule
Schedule 3	Marking of pressure vessels	Schedule

APPENDIX 2

(para 9)

DETAILS OF THE MAIN CHANGES INTRODUCED BY THE PRESSURE SYSTEMS SAFETY REGULATIONS 2000

Regulation 4 - Design and construction

1 Pressure systems to which:

- (1) the Medical Devices Regulations 1994 ([see HSE Guide Chapter 4.23](#)) apply, other than those which contain or are liable to contain steam; and
- (2) pressure equipment subject to PER ([see OM 2000/112](#))

are excepted from the requirements of reg.4 (see PSSR Schedule 1, Part II, para 1).

Regulation 5 - Provision of information and marking

2 Regulation 5(4) requires pressure vessels to be marked with the information specified in Schedule 3. The markings 'maximum/minimum allowable pressure' have replaced 'maximum/minimum design pressure' formerly required under PSTGC Regulations; these new terms are defined in reg.2(2).

3 Pressure systems to which:

- (1) the Medical Devices Regulations 1994 ([see HSE Guide Chapter 4.23](#)) apply, other than those which contain or are liable to contain steam; and
- (2) pressure equipment subject to PER ([see OM 2000/112](#))

are excepted from the requirements of regs.5(1) and (4) (see PSSR Schedule 1, Part II,

para 1).

4 Inspectors should note that the scope of PER and PSSR are not exactly the same and therefore PSSR Schedule 1, Part II does not provide a blanket exception from PSSR regs.4, 5(1) and (4). For example, equipment containing steam at or below 0.5 bar gauge does not fall under the scope of PER but does fall within the scope of PSSR. There are also specific exclusions contained within PER ([see OM 2000/112](#)). Many are the same or similar to the exceptions found in PSSR Schedule 1, eg equipment subject to international regulations covering road, rail and sea transportation, tyres, electrical/telecommunications cables, and equipment on ships and aircraft, **but they are not identical**.

REGULATION 14 - KEEPING OF RECORDS, ETC

5 A new provision has been added at reg.14(1)(c)(ii) to require the user of an installed pressure system and the owner of a mobile pressure system to keep any (operating) instructions provided under PER where they relate to parts of the pressure system included in the written scheme of examination. As with other records which are required to be kept under PSSR reg.14, such instructions must be passed on to new users or owners when ownership of the system changes.

REGULATION 16 - DEFENCE

6 The wording of reg.16 has changed to give the Court a better opportunity to verify the information supplied in defence during legal proceedings.

REGULATION 18 - REPEAL AND REVOCATIONS

7 The following sections of the Factories Act 1961 (relating to boilers) have been repealed:

(1) section 34 *Steam boilers-restrictions on entry*

This exception prohibited entry to any steam boiler which formed one of a range of boilers unless specified steps had been taken to prevent the ingress of steam or hot water. The standard contained within section 34 has been reproduced in the ACoP to PSSR ([see OM para 6](#)) in support of reg.11 (operation).

(2) section 37 *Exceptions to steam boilers, steam receivers and containers, and their receivers*

(3) section 38 *Steam boilers - supplementary provisions*

With the repeal of section 34, sections 37 and 38 became redundant.

REGULATION 19 - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

8 The transitional provisions contained within reg.19 effectively continue the validity of documents such as the (written) scheme of examination, and an examination report made under PSTGC Regulations. Hence a report of an examination made under PSTGC Regulations reg.9(3) and which specifies a 'next date due' after 21 February 2000, will still be valid under PSSR until the next examination has been completed.

SCHEDULE 1, PART I - Exceptions from all regulations

Exception 1

9 The wording of Exception 1 has been amended. Paragraph 1(a) now refers to 'a vessel used in navigation'. This broad exception covers all vessels so used, whether at sea or on inland waters, and maintains the exception contained within PSTGC Regulations for vessels subject to the Merchant Shipping Act (now 1995) and vessels in the service of the Crown. When considering health and safety enforcement activities at the water margin and offshore, inspectors should take into account the [Memorandum of Understanding between the Health and Safety Executive, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency \(MCA\) and Maritime Accident Investigation Branch \(MAIB\)](#) (1999 edition) (available on the intranet under Framework Documents).

Exception 20

10 The wording of Exception 20 has been amended to refer simply to 'prime movers including turbines'. The reference to steam locomotives and traction engines contained within PSTGC Regulations has been deleted. This amendment followed consultation with the model engineering and heritage rail organisations in relation to the exception which PSTGC Regulations conferred on larger (potentially more hazardous) prime movers such as steam turbines compared with the relatively small prime movers of steam locomotives and traction engines.

Schedule 1, Part II - Exceptions from certain regulations

Exception 1

11 [See paras 1](#) and [3](#) to this Appendix.

Exception 2

12 Paragraph 2(1) maintains the limited exception afforded to systems incorporating a vessel in which the total stored energy is less than 250 bar litres. However, the relief from regs.5(4), 8-10 and 14 now only applies if the product of the pressure and internal volume of each of the pressure vessels of a pressure system (rather than, as formerly under PSTGC Regulations, of its largest vessel) is less than 250 bar litres.

13 Inspectors should note that such systems are no longer excepted from the requirements of PSSR reg.11 (operation).

14 There is a transitional period until 21 August 2000 to allow duty holders to take account of the amendments brought about by para 2(1) (see Exception 2, para 2(2)).

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