

CANADIAN REGISTRATION NUMBER HARMONIZATION

In Canada, the establishment of rules for the registration of pressure equipment designs and for issuing Canadian Registration Numbers (CRNs) falls to the individual provinces, with a national standard known as CSA B51 establishing a basic level of consistency between jurisdictions. Although CSA B51 establishes requirements to ensure the compatibility of registration systems between provinces, there are variations in some of the processes used to submit and register designs. These variations do not tend to cause problems when a manufacturer submits within their own provincial jurisdiction, but a need for increased consistency becomes noticeable when they need to submit the same design for registration in each of several provinces, and to account for the subtle variations in the administrative processes and technical review standards implemented by each province.

ABSA is currently conducting a pilot project with several other provinces with the aim of harmonizing the review process between provinces. A process has been established in which a design package requiring registration in several participating jurisdictions will be forwarded to all participating provinces, so that all of the organizations can contribute as needed to the initial design review. They have an allotted period of time to complete their initial reviews, and questions and comments from all reviewers are sent back to the submitter in a single package. Once outstanding items have been addressed, registration numbers are issued by each province and compiled by the initiating province, so that a single response can be returned to the submitter. Since the participating jurisdictions have agreed upon standards for the required scope of the technical review and the required qualifications for the personnel performing it, a detailed technical review performed by the initiating province can be relied upon by all participating parties, and additional provinces need only contribute to the review based on their own unique needs.

Initial reception to the pilot project has been promising, and positive feedback has been received from all involved. Submitters find that they obtain registration for their designs in several provinces much sooner than was possible in the past, and do not need to coordinate the effort of applying for separate reviews in each of several provinces. They benefit from having a single point of contact which acts to represent the interests of all the jurisdictional organizations that need to be involved. The provincial jurisdictional organizations that have been involved have also provided positive feedback and have found that a coordinated review can provide for a smoother and more efficient workflow; several additional provinces have expressed interest in becoming involved. ABSA will soon be launching a web portal that will facilitate electronic submission of designs and will be able to coordinate the review and registration of designs between provincial jurisdictions.

At this point in time, design submissions that are suitable for this pilot project still need to be hand-picked when they are received, as selection depends on where registration is required; there is therefore not yet any way for submitters to explicitly opt in to the program. With the ongoing success of the project, and as more provinces choose to participate, this more efficient process will be incorporated into ABSA's day-to-day business processes. Establishing a harmonized approach to design registration across provinces will improve the level of service delivered to submitters, and will ultimately increase the level of safety achieved through implementation of a harmonized design registration system in Canada. ❖