



Safety of Pressure Systems 2000 – 128

Written Schemes of Examination

These regulations cover all compressed gas systems with a working pressure of **0.5 barg or above a pressure volume product over 250bar/litres ie a vessel of 50 litres and a working pressure of 5 barg = 250 bar/litres.**

Types of system would include Compressed Air, Steam, Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen etc.

If a compressed gas system falls into the above criteria then a Written Scheme of Examination will be required for the system.

The Written Scheme of Examination should be compiled and endorsed by a Competent Person and is a statutory requirement.

The Written Scheme of Examination should include all the relevant information about the system, such as system description, a system condition report, the safe operating limit of the system and a system drawing if applicable.

The Written Scheme of Examination should also include a list of items that require Statutory inspections such as air receivers, pressure vessels and associated fittings and the periods between inspections.

The Written Scheme of Examination should include information and guides to the correct implementation of the regulations.

For a full list of the regulations please click on the link below;

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si2000/20000128.htm>

Vessel Inspections

Once a Written Scheme of Examination is in place then all pressure vessels connected to the system and come under the Written Scheme must be inspected by a Competent Examiner at the period stated in the Written Scheme.

The vessel inspection consists of a full internal inspection, external inspection, hammer test and ultra sonic thickness measure. The thickness has to comply with the corrosion allowance that the vessel was built to when it was manufactured.

Once the Written Scheme of Examination is in place any major modification to the system must be updated by the Competent person again. For instance compressors change, pipework changes or a vessel change.

If the system stays the same for a long period the Written Scheme will stay in place for the whole time and does not need to be changed but the vessels still have to be inspected.

The safety devices on the air receiver ie safety pressure relief valve and pressure gauge should be tested at the same time of the inspection and certificated.

Vessel inspections are also statutory requirements.

**For further advice on this subject please call
Cambs Compressor Engineering Ltd**

On

0870 38 24 700.

